



Steve Bannon, former adviser to former President Donald Trump arrives at the New York District Attorney's office to turn himself in on Thursday. MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO/GETTY IMAGES

Steve Bannon pleads not guilty to scheme charges

Related to border wall fundraising

Kevin McCoy and Ella Lee
USA TODAY

Steve Bannon, a longtime adviser to former President Donald Trump, pleaded not guilty Thursday to new criminal charges involving an alleged fundraising scheme.

Bannon and the "We Build the Wall" nonprofit organization are charged with two counts of money laundering, plus felony counts of conspiracy and scheme to defraud. Bannon and the group also face a misdemeanor count of conspiracy to defraud.

"There cannot be one set of rules for everyday people and another for the wealthy and powerful – we all must play by the same rules and must obey the law," New York Attorney General Letitia James said in a statement.

The case is expected to echo aspects of a previous federal criminal case that accused Bannon and three co-defendants of conspiring to dupe donors who contributed more than \$25 million to build a security wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Those who ponied up to a crowdfunding campaign allegedly were assured all of the money raised would go toward the construction project – help-

ing to boost a signature goal of the Trump White House.

However, the federal indictment in that case alleged that Bannon and his co-defendants secretly siphoned off hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations. Bannon collected more than \$1 million via a non-profit organization he controlled, and used the funds to pay personal expenses and other costs, federal prosecutors allege.

Bannon surrendered for arraignment Thursday shortly after 9 a.m. Walking into Manhattan Criminal Court, he told reporters and onlookers that the prosecution against him is political.

"This is irony – on the very day the mayor of this city has a delegation down on the border, they're persecuting here," Bannon yelled over hecklers, referring to New York Mayor Eric Adams' delegation of officials sent to the southern border this week on a "fact-finding mission" regarding migrants being bused from Texas to New York.

One heckler yelled back: "Stop hurting America, you greasy, two-bit grifter!"

In the federal case, the alleged conspirators pleaded not guilty. Trump pardoned Bannon in the closing days of his White House term, aborting the federal case against the strategist. However, then-Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr., launched an

investigation of the alleged scheme using state criminal statutes. State criminal charges cannot be wiped away by presidential pardons.

Alvin Bragg, Vance's successor as Manhattan's top local prosecutor, continued the investigation, leading to the anticipated new charges. The case is not the only criminal matter entangling Bannon, 68, a media executive and right-wing political strategist who served as an adviser in the Trump White House and remained in contact with Trump even after he was pushed out.

Bannon was convicted in July on two counts of contempt for refusing to appear before the special House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol by Trump supporters aiming to block certification of Joe Biden's presidential campaign win.

Committee members sought testimony and documents from Bannon because he was believed to be in contact with Trump during the weeks leading to the attack on the Capitol. Bannon, who is scheduled to be sentenced in October on the contempt conviction, said after the verdict that he planned to file an appeal.

Contributing: Associated Press

DOJ appeals review in Trump case

Feds challenge special master appointment

Kevin Johnson
and Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department will challenge the appointment of a special master to review thousands of documents seized during last month's search of former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago beach club, a ruling that has effectively limited the criminal investigation into the Trump team's handling of classified government records.

The notice of appeal comes after U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon authorized the appointment of a third party to identify records that may relate to attorney-client communications that should be shielded from federal investigators.

In court documents filed

Thursday, the government also asked that Cannon suspend at least part of the ruling barring the use of the classified documents seized during the Aug. 8 search in the continuing investigation, pending the appeal.

Justice officials argued that the "government and the public would suffer irreparable harm absent a stay."

The new court filing states that Trump cannot assert any claim to the classified documents and that any assertions that they might be privileged communications between attorney and client did not apply.

"Although this Court suggested that (Trump) might be able to assert executive privilege as to some of the seized records, Supreme Court precedent makes clear that any possible assertion of privilege that (Trump) might attempt to make over the classified records would be overcome by the government's 'demonstrated, specific need' for that evidence."

Cannon had signaled in her ruling that a special master could screen records that could be covered by claims of executive privilege.

Justice lawyers argued the investigation would be seriously impeded by banning investigators from accessing the seized classified documents. Cannon authorized the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to assess the classified documents for possible impact on national security but ordered the Justice Department to halt its criminal review temporarily.

Justice Department lawyers said the classification review and criminal inquiry cannot be separated.

Trump railed at the Justice filing, claiming the appeal would cost millions of dollars while lauding the judge and her previous ruling.

The former president, however, did not rebut the government's legal arguments.

Deaths of suspects in stabbing spree raise questions

Rampage in small community leaves 10 dead in Canada

John Bacon
USA TODAY



Police and investigators gather at the scene where a stabbing suspect was arrested in Rosthern, Saskatchewan, on Wednesday. HEYWOOD YU/AP

The capture and death of the second suspect in the stabbing rampage that left 10 people dead in and around a small Canadian Indigenous community has ended an intense search but added questions to mysteries surrounding the carnage.

Authorities said police units responding to a report of a stolen vehicle near the town of Rosthern forced the vehicle Myles Sanderson was driving into a ditch Wednesday afternoon.

He was detained and a knife was found inside the vehicle, said Rhonda Blackmore, commanding officer of the Saskatchewan Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

"Shortly after his arrest he went into medical distress," Blackmore said, and a nearby emergency medical team was called to the scene. "All life-saving measures that we are capable of were taken."

Sanderson was rushed to a hospital in Saskatoon, where he was pronounced dead.

An autopsy was planned, Blackmore said.

An official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity said Sanderson died of self-inflicted injuries.

Blackmore said Saskatoon police and the Saskatchewan Serious Incident Response Team would conduct an independent investigation into Sanderson's death.

Marco Mendicino, Canada's public safety minister, also promised investigations.

"You have questions. We have questions," he told reporters.

Myles Sanderson's death came two days after the body of Damien Sanderson was found in a field near the scene of Sunday's knife rampage. Police are investigating whether Myles Sanderson killed his brother.

The rampage that set off the manhunt for the Sander-

son brothers took place Sunday on the James Smith Cree Nation reserve and the nearby town of Weldon. Authorities received the first emergency call at about 5:40 a.m. Within a couple of hours the toll had reached 10 dead and 18 wounded. Both brothers were members of the Indigenous reserve.

Later that day, Myles Sanderson was seen driving in the provincial capital of Regina, 200 miles south of Weldon and about 100 miles from the Montana border, authorities said. He was arrested Wednesday in Rosthern, about 80 miles southwest of the reserve.

All but one of the 10 people killed in the attacks were from the James Smith Cree Nation reserve.

One was Earl Burns, 66 – court documents said Sanderson attacked in-laws Earl Burns and Joyce Burns with a knife in 2015, later pleading guilty to assault.

Also killed were Lydia Gloria Burns, 61; Bonnie Burns, 48; Carol Burns, 46; Gregory Burns, 28; Thomas Burns, 23; Christian Head, 54; Lana Head, 49; and Robert Sanderson, 49.

Authorities have declined to say whether any of the victims were related, but The New York Times reported that all six with the Burns last name were members of an extended family.

The other person killed was Wesley Patterson, 78, from Weldon.

"Now that Myles is deceased we may never have an understanding of that motivation," Blackmore said.

Contributing: Jorge L. Ortiz, USA TODAY; The Associated Press

5FWQQRC
BONUS CODE

1) Register and enter codes at: www.diningdealsusa.com
2) Enter today's code before Sunday, September 11 at 11:59 p.m.
3) Redeem today's bonus code for coupon redemptions that interest you. Coupons cover restaurants, travel, family fun, automotive, shopping and more!

entertainment

* Discounts vary by merchant, location and offer; subject to availability. Offers may change without notice. Total savings vary based on the number of discounts and coupons redeemed and value of offers.

USA TODAY

Dining Deals USA

TODAY'S BONUS CODE

USA TODAY

Postal information

Volume 40, No. 252
USA TODAY, USPS #684090, ISSN #0734-7456, is published Monday through Friday at 7950 Jones Branch Dr. McLean, VA 22108. Periodicals postage paid at McLean, VA 22108. Postmaster: Send address changes to Customer Service, PO Box 5830, Augusta, GA 30916

Contact us

Customer Service 1-800-872-0001 Classified advertising 1-800-397-0070

Newsroom 703-854-3400, ext. 5 National, regional advertising 703-854-3400

Available subscriptions

Subscribe and save today by visiting usatoday.com/subscribe. The subscription below is billed monthly and includes 24/7 access to usatoday.com, breaking news on our tablet and smartphone apps, subscriber benefits at usatoday.com/memberguide and the eNewspaper, a digital replica of the print edition.

Delivery of the Monday through Friday print editions: \$34.00

*Plus applicable taxes

Customer service

To view important information online related to your subscription, visit aboutyoursubscription.usatoday.com.

You can also manage your subscription at account.usatoday.com.

Contact USA TODAY for questions or to report issues at feedback@usatoday.com or 1-800-872-0001.

Operating hours are: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. EST

Corrections and clarifications

Our goal is to promptly correct errors. Contact Standards Editor Michael McCarter at accuracy@usatoday.com to report a mistake. Describe the error, where you saw it, the date, page number or the URL.



Police: DNA led to arrest in journalist's death

Elected official reportedly upset about reporting

Rio Lacanlale

Reno Gazette Journal

USA TODAY

LAS VEGAS – The DNA from a now-arrested elected Nevada official was found at the scene of a Las Vegas reporter's slaying, authorities said Thursday, revealing the official was also "upset" about stories the reporter was pursuing.

Clark County Public Administrator Robert Telles, 45, lost his reelection bid in June amid fallout from a series of critical articles Las Vegas Review-Journal investigative reporter Jeff German published this year. Telles, who faces one count of murder with a deadly weapon, was due to make his first court appearance Thursday.

Details outlining what led police to close in on Telles as their suspect five days after German was fatally stabbed outside his home Saturday were revealed at a Thursday news conference.

"Telles was upset about articles being written by German as an investigative journalist that exposed potential

wrongdoing," police Capt. Dori Koren said, adding that Telles had recently discovered "there was additional reporting that was pending."

Authorities took Telles into custody Wednesday evening following an hours-long standoff at his home. He was hospitalized for what Clark County Sheriff

Joe Lombardo described as self-inflicted wounds. The arrest came hours after the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department had concluded a search of his property and vehicles.

German was stabbed Saturday outside his Vegas home, police said, but authorities did not learn of his death until the next day, when a 911 call reported finding German's body.

Authorities initially suspected the slaying might have been carried out by a person casing German's neighborhood "to commit other crimes." A security camera photo showed the killer carrying a duffel bag and wearing an orange work shirt with reflective stripes, gloves and a wide-brimmed straw hat.

Investigators now believe Telles dressed that way to disguise his identi-

ty, Koren said Thursday.

While searching Telles' property, detectives collected a DNA sample from the suspect, which police said came back as a positive match for DNA found at the scene of German's killing. After receiving the results of the DNA testing later that afternoon, police obtained an arrest warrant, leading to the standoff.

Police also found shoes stained with dried blood and a straw hat, Koren said, but as of Thursday, the weapon used in the attack had not been found.

A newly released arrest report obtained by the USA TODAY Network outlined that German was stabbed multiple times. Authorities believe German fought back, detectives wrote in the three-page report, because he had "defensive" wounds. The suspect's DNA was found under German's fingernails.

On the morning of the attack, the report says, Telles had been in German's neighborhood for about a half-hour before the death. After the attack, the suspect stood up and "calmly walked" away from German's home, the report states.

The suspect returned to German's house minutes later, appearing "to look for something," the report reads.

German joined the Review-Journal in

2010 after more than two decades at the Las Vegas Sun, where he was a columnist and reporter. He was 69.

In a statement, German's family called him "a loving and loyal brother, uncle and friend who devoted his life to his work exposing wrongdoing in Las Vegas and beyond."

"We're shocked, saddened and angry about his death," the statement said. "Jeff was committed to seeking justice for others and would appreciate the hard work by local police and journalists in pursuing his killer. We look forward to seeing justice done in this case."

In the weeks before the June election, German bylined reports about an office "mired in turmoil and internal dissension" between longtime employees and new hires under Telles' leadership.

Telles blamed "old-timers" for exaggerating the extent of his relationship with a female staffer and falsely claiming that he mistreated them. He later posted Twitter complaints about German, the Review-Journal reported, including claims German was a bully who was "obsessed" with him.

German was working on follow-up reports, it said Wednesday.

Contributing: Associated Press

California endures another day of heat wave

Claire Thornton USA TODAY

Much of California remained under excessive-heat warnings, and residents of the Golden State have again been asked to limit electricity use amid an unusual September heat wave.

The National Weather Service said temperatures in California, particularly over interior valley regions, were expected to stretch "well into the triple digits" through Friday. Temperatures are expected to cool this weekend, with Hurricane Kay making its way toward the southern part of the state.

Another flex alert, this time from 3 to 10 p.m., was issued by the California Independent System Operator in an effort to avoid rolling blackouts.

Flex alerts are issued by CAISO when extreme heat causes electricity use to increase, straining the state's power supply, according to the operator's website. The alerts are issued during the evening hours because that's when people come home and turn on air conditioning, lights and appliances, the website adds.

Californians were able to avoid rolling power outages Tuesday and Wednesday during flex alerts.

September heat wave

Western states are struggling through one of the hottest and longest September heat waves on record. The heat records broken Tuesday occurred much later in the summer compared with the last record, set nearly a century ago "during the dog days of summer," according to AccuWeather.

What's happening now

California ISO issued an Energy Emergency Alert 1, effective from 3 p.m. until 10 p.m.

What's next

The weather patterns that are causing the heat wave are dissipating, and cooler weather is expected by the weekend, the National Weather Service said Thursday.



Kay will bring rain in California

Hurricane Kay, which developed off western Mexico, is part of what will bring some relief to Southern California as it heads north.

As the hurricane continues northwest, it's expected to dump rain on parts of the state starting Friday, according to the National Weather Service.

Some areas could get up to 6 inches of rain, possibly leading to flash flooding, the weather service said.

Californians swamped in heat

New heat records were set this week in many California cities – including San Jose (109 degrees), Napa (114), Santa Rosa (115), King City (116) and Merced (116), AccuWeather reported.

Heat waves like the one California has been experiencing are the most deadly natural disasters the U.S. faces each year, killing more people than hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, blizzards or extreme cold, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Angel Martinez pours water on Jerry Fullington's head to cool him off from the heat in Santa Rosa, California, on Wednesday. GABRIELLE LURIE/AP

California continues to avoid rolling blackouts

Californians have been asked to cut back on electricity at home and at businesses between 3 p.m. and 10 p.m. by not using air conditioning and other appliances as they normally would.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, speaking Wednesday in Beverly Hills, said he spent days debating whether to send an alert this week to 27 million cellphones urging residents to turn off or reduce nonessential power. He ultimately decided to test it Tuesday and concluded it was a game-changer, though he's reluctant to use it too often because he fears weakening its effectiveness.

The emergency alert was not repeated Wednesday.

Contributing: Christine Fernando, Celina Tebor and Elizabeth Weise, USA TODAY; Erin Rode, The Desert Sun (Palm Springs, California); The Associated Press.

Shine on, shine on: We can catch the harvest moon this weekend

Doyle Rice

USA TODAY

A stunning harvest full moon will rise in the eastern sky Friday evening, and the nearly full moon will be visible each night through the weekend, barring pesky clouds.

Skywatchers who step outside Friday night or early Saturday will be able to enjoy the sights of the harvest moon, one of the most popular full moons of the year. It's directly related to the changing of the seasons, AccuWeather said.

The full moon peaks on Saturday at about 6 a.m. EDT, although it will appear bright and full in the sky beginning on Friday and into Sunday, according to LiveScience.

The harvest moon is the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox, which

this year will be Sept. 22.

The harvest moon has its history in the fields.

"In the days before tractors with headlights, having moonlight to work by was crucial to getting the harvest in quickly before rain caused it to rot," says Alan MacRobert, an editor at Sky & Telescope magazine.

Many crops ripen all at once in late summer and early autumn, so farmers found themselves extremely busy at this time of year, according to NASA. They had to work after sundown. Moonlight became an essential part of farming, and the harvest moon was born.

The Oxford English Dictionary gives 1706 as the year of the first published use of the harvest moon, NASA said.

September's full moon also has other nicknames inspired by farmers and the seasonal changes of early autumn, in-



A couple sits on a bluff overlooking the Missouri River as the full harvest moon rises in the distance in Kansas City, Missouri, in 2014. CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

cluding the corn moon, rutting moon, yellow leaf moon and autumn moon, AccuWeather said. At moonrise, the moon is also often reddened by clouds and dust in Earth's atmosphere. Moons near the horizon are also swollen to outlandish size by the "moon illusion," a well-known but still mysterious trick of the eye that makes low-hanging moons seem much larger than they really are.

In addition to the full moon, you can take a peek at Jupiter and Saturn in the sky this weekend, AccuWeather said. "Jupiter and Saturn will be rising with the full moon on Friday evening with the trio appearing in a row splayed across the southeastern sky by 10 p.m. local time."

"Jupiter is the brighter of the two planets and will appear to the left of the moon, while Saturn is slightly dimmer and will shine to the right of the moon."

WORLD

Truss joins UK's legacy of female leaders

Why hasn't US elected a woman as president?

Michael Collins and Kim Hjelmgaard
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — Liz Truss became the U.K.'s third female prime minister on Tuesday, an historic event that did not go unnoticed in the United States, which has yet to elect a woman as president.

What gives? Why do the Brits keep choosing women as their leaders while the U.S. keeps sticking with men?

The latest

• Truss, 47, landed the job by beating Rishi Sunak, who was finance minister under former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, in a Conservative Party election contest.

• Truss follows a trail blazed by Margaret Thatcher, who was prime minister from 1979 to 1990, and Theresa May, who held the office from 2016 to 2019.

• Truss is outspoken, often seen as ideologically driven and frequently compared to Thatcher, the feisty Iron Lady who supported free markets and low taxes, developed a close friendship with Ronald Reagan and played a key role in ending the Cold War.

Top takeaways

Political analysts argue the U.K.'s parliamentary system makes it easier for a woman to rise to the pinnacle of power than in the United States.

"Historically, countries with parliamentary systems of government have been more likely to elevate women to national leadership than countries with presidential systems," said David Hopkins, a Boston College expert on presidential politics.

In Britain, voters elect a party, not a prime minister; the party that wins the most votes chooses the prime minister.

A few years ago, the rules were changed so that grassroots members of the party, not lawmakers, could make the selection if a prime minister resigned or was forced from power outside of an election — as occurred with Truss, who won 81,326 votes to Sunak's 60,399 among Conservative Party members.

U.S. presidents, on the other hand, are chosen by the voters at large.

It's much harder for a woman to be elected in a presidential system, where they face a slew of barriers, including building a national campaign infrastructure, raising money and enduring greater discrimination in media coverage, said Rainbow Murray, an expert on gender and diversity in politics and a



Liz Truss is Britain's new prime minister, replacing Boris Johnson. AP

Political analysts argue the U.K.'s parliamentary system makes it easier for a woman to rise to the pinnacle of power than in the United States.

professor at Queen Mary University of London.

Only one woman, Hillary Clinton, has come close to winning the U.S. presidency.

Clinton won the Democratic nomination for president after a tough primary in 2016.

She went on to win the popular vote during the general election but lost the Electoral College — and the presidency — to Donald Trump.

In the U.K., Thatcher is the only woman elected prime minister as a consequence of a general election — in other words, chosen indirectly by the public, as opposed to emerging from an internal party contest that is a feature of the British parliamentary system.

Both May and Truss won the top job after men were effectively forced from power.

The ruling Conservative Party gave the role to May after David Cameron resigned in humiliation because he lost a controversial referendum on whether the U.K. should stay in the European Union.

Truss's coronation this week by Conservative Party grassroots members followed the resignation of the scandal-plagued, gaffe-prone Johnson in July.

What they are saying

• During a question-and-answer session in Parliament on Wednesday, May asked Truss why she thought all

three of the female prime ministers have been Conservative. "It is quite extraordinary," Truss responded, before adding that the main opposition Labour Party "doesn't seem to have the ability to find a female leader or indeed a leader who doesn't come from North London," a reference to traditionally wealthier and well-heeled parts of the capital where voters have been characterized as holding more left-wing views on social and cultural issues.

• Many Conservatives are more positively disposed toward a female leader because of the positive experience they had with Thatcher, who broke a barrier for female leadership, became the defining British leader of the past 50 years and won several elections for the Conservative Party, Murray said. Even so, "Thatcher was most definitely not a feminist," Murray said. "A lot of the policies that she enacted did not help women. She surrounded herself by men in her Cabinet. She was generally not perceived as having done much as a leader, beyond the sort of symbolic aspect of having a woman in power, to advance women's rights."

• "Margaret Thatcher was the most powerful prime minister of the modern era, alongside Winston Churchill, and so her example, I think, has been an inspiration to British women to follow," said Nile Gardiner, director of the Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank based in Washington. "Her leadership was a dramatic game-changer not only for the U.K. but also across Europe."

• In the U.K., "the Conservative Party has always been, I think, very, very open to women leadership in recent decades, and we're seeing that now once again with Liz Truss," Gardiner said. "(The party) has never been supportive of identity politics or affirmative action or anything like that."

• "In the U.S., we have candidate-centered elections, and party influence seems to be dwindling," said Lauren Wright, a political scientist at Princeton University. "Trump was a key example

of this. We are hyper-focused on the person running for office and their attributes."

• "Voters here have never seen a woman as president, which can translate into voters questioning whether women are electable," said Christina Reynolds, a spokeswoman for EMILY'S List, a major national force for grooming female Democratic candidates. The organization works to elect women at all levels of government to ensure "that we don't differentiate between 'women candidates' and 'candidates,' that we are able to see examples of women in the highest levels of government."

• Another relevant factor in the U.K.: the instability of Conservative Party leadership. "The Tories have gone through four prime ministers, two men and two women, in the 12 years since they gained the parliamentary majority," Hopkins said. "The more party leaders you go through, the more likely it is that some of them are women."

What to expect

All three British female leaders have been Conservatives who used or sought to use their executive powers to govern from the ideological right, especially on economic issues.

In a 2020 speech when she was minister for women and equalities, Truss angered women's and minority rights groups when she dismissed race, discrimination and gender debates as "fashionable" topics that often amounted to little more than jumping on a "woke" bandwagon.

"Liz Truss's policies are likely to have quite a detrimental impact on women," Murray said. "Because she is in favor of a very sort of individualist approach to policy direction, very neoliberal, and she is against economic distribution, which tends to favor women, a higher proportion of whom are on lower incomes."

Gardiner, however, described Truss as "someone who will fight hard for British interests" and predicted she will be "forceful and decisive."



Remains of a female 'vampire' with a sickle across her throat are seen after they were unearthed at an archaeological site in Bydgoszcz, Poland, last month.

NICOLAUS COPERNICUS UNIVERSITY

Skeleton of female 'vampire' unearthed

Natalie Neysa Alund
USA TODAY

The remains of a female "vampire" have been unearthed by archaeologists at a cemetery in Europe, Polish researchers announced this week.

A team from the Institute of Archaeology at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, a city in north central Poland, found the body in late August, the school confirmed to USA TODAY on Thursday. Led by Professor Dariusz Poliński, the Polish researchers discovered a grave during a dig, the university said. The grave dates back to the 17th century in the village of Pien' near Ostromecko. It contained the skeleton of a young woman, according to a statement released by the university. A sickle had been placed on her neck and a padlock had been

placed on the big toe of her left foot, the statement said.

"It can be assumed that for some reason those burying the woman were afraid that she would rise from the grave," researchers wrote. "Perhaps they feared she was a vampire."

Experts plan further research at the cemetery, the university reported. In addition, it said, researchers from the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Krakow will conduct DNA testing on the remains to learn more about the woman. An anthropological analysis of the skeleton is being done by Alicja Dziedz-Lipińska of the Institute of Biology at the NCU Faculty of Biological Sciences. Conservation of the sickle and padlock is being carried out by Dr. Marek Kolszko of the Institute of Archaeology.



BUILDING BLOCKS OF AMERICA

Through Payroll Contributions, Everyone is Building Toward the Future.

America Works Because We're Working For America.®

Founded by
AMERICAN PAYROLL
ASSOCIATION

Diamond Sponsor
ADP
Always Designing
for People®

MNED Sponsor
PAYCHEX
HR | Payroll | Benefits | Insurance

Platinum Sponsors
CERIDIAN **dailyPay** **FINTWIST** by **SECOMERICA** **NETSPEND** **rapid!** **UKG** **workday**

A Global Payments Company

September 5-9

NATIONAL PAYROLL
WEEK 2022

Media Partners

Jobing.com

summitx.com

You want us to be really educated'

To work as a mental health therapist in Montana, McWilliams said she needed a bachelor's and master's degree. She earned both from the University of Providence, a private Catholic institution in Great Falls, Montana, but in the process accumulated about \$129,000 in federal student loan debt.

McWilliams had also borrowed money in her early 20s to attend college on and off, adding to her debt. Because she had little income at the time, she received federal Pell Grants to help pay her tuition. Under Biden's plan, that means \$20,000 of her debt may be forgiven.

She doesn't think it will change her life.

McWilliams said limited college options and degree requirements for certain jobs drove her debt higher. She would have preferred to attend a state university, where tuition can cost far less than at a private schools, but none had the right combination of being nearby with the right program. She was vexed, too, by the master's degree requirement to be a counselor.

"You want us to be really educated if we're going to muck around in your psyche," McWilliams said. But she has found that working as a counselor doesn't pay well enough to offset the cost of her degrees.

She said it's likely she will be paying off the debt for at least another 10 years, but McWilliams hopes to benefit from the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. The federal program, distinct from Biden's student debt plan, cancels the debt of those working in public service after a decade. She is waiting for her loan servicer to confirm how many payments she has left.

She said she wonders whether the federal government can really deliver the mass relief it promises.

A five-year plan

University of Missouri-Columbia alum and St. Louis resident Danielle Copeland, 35, said still doesn't have the diploma she earned more than a decade after graduating with a bachelor's degree in communications – a result of the debt she has owed on her student account balance to the school for years.

Before her second year of undergraduate school, her mother became ill and could no longer help her pay for college in the same way, she said. Her mother pushed her to continue school, however, so to pay for classes, Copeland borrowed about \$40,000 through a combination of federal loans and the university, which left a negative balance on her student account until this year. She used the loans alongside the wages she earned from three jobs to pay for her education and living expenses.

In late August, Copeland, a motivational speaker and author, said she finished paying off the balance on her student account to Mizzou. She is finally set to receive her diploma, "a piece of paper I worked hard for," she said. (A university spokesman confirmed it does hold on to diplomas if students carry a balance after graduation.) But the \$20,953 Copeland still owed in federal loans continued to hang over her.

That was until Biden announced his debt cancellation plan last month.

Now, Copeland – a budgeting maven who pays varying amounts on her loans each month – could see her outstanding student debt cut in half. She said she can see her five-year debt-free plan become a reality with this sort of help.

**Dreams deferred**

Tamiko Scian's education spanned three universities, culminating in a master's degree in communications at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Like many borrowers, Scian, 49, said she grew as a person because of her education, but the \$80,000 she has owed for years fills her with anxiety. After graduating from Howard in 2002, Scian said she put her loans on an administrative hold known as forbearance, "trying to delay the inevitable." The practice allows borrowers to skip payments for a time, but interest continues to add up.

"It just felt like a ball and chain and a weight on my shoulders to have this year after year," Scian said. "It kind of de-

Forgiveness on loan debt means chance at new life

Chris Quintana and Kayla Jimenez USA TODAY

Ann McWilliams borrowed tens of thousands of dollars to attend college – all in the name of helping people.

The 47-year-old struggled with drug addiction in her early 20s, but by 30 she was in recovery and figuring out what to do with her life. McWilliams, who lives near the small towns of Kalispell and Whitefish in Montana, decided she wanted to become a mental health and addiction counselor.

It would mean years of education – and borrowing money to pay for it.

President Joe Biden's offer to cancel billions in student loan debt will erase the entire balance owed by about 20 million people, barring any legal challenges or bureaucratic holdups. Another 23 million, including McWilliams, will have as much as \$20,000 of their debt erased.

But given that McWilliams owes more than \$129,000, even with Biden's gesture, she faces decades of payments.

"It's really hard to wrap my head around having that kind of debt burden," McWilliams said. "It might as well be a million dollars. I don't even know how to get at it."

Loan forgiveness will affect nearly all 45 million people who still carry federal student debt. Those making more than \$125,000 annually or more than \$250,000 as part of a household don't qualify. It also has no effect on the debt of people who borrowed from private lenders.

Biden's maneuver has been labeled a handout to the wealthy and unfair to people who paid off their loans or don't have degrees. McWilliams said that given the size of her debt, she believes it will change her life very little.

For others, the erasure will be transformative. Student loan borrowers from across the country, with different levels of education and in distinct stages of life, told USA TODAY the forgiveness will give them a chance to save for a down payment on a home, further their education, save money for their children, or just keep the roof they already have over their heads.

Several said they don't understand why their degrees cost as much as they did, and nearly all said they felt overwhelmed and confused when they first borrowed. Some said they are advising their children to think twice about college if it requires taking out loans. For some, the effect of holding so much debt was putting off marriage to avoid burdening prospective partners.

Student loans can swell the actual cost of college. Monthly payments tend to be small and cover only a fraction of the principal, while interest keeps adding to what borrowers owe. Payment plans based on borrowers' income keep monthly bills low, but often extend the life of the loan even further. In some cases, payments may touch only the interest on a loan, stretching out how long borrowers are on the hook.

Some borrowers already have experienced a form of student debt freedom, with loan payments paused for more than 2½ years, but the amount they owe overall is unchanged. Debt forgiveness will actually wipe out chunks of debt.

Even billions in debt cancellation – though some suspect it might cost up to a \$1 trillion – won't address all the hurdles Americans face in paying for higher education. As part of the debt announcement, Biden pledged to increase federal spending on higher education so families can spend less themselves. And the administration also plans to call out schools that leave their graduates with the most debt.

These borrowers' stories illustrate what lies ahead for current and future students.

ferred a lot of personal dreams, like being able to accelerate on retirement savings, getting married."

Scian said she feared the debt would weigh on any relationship, and an ideal spouse would be someone who is debt-free. She has dated over the past two years, but wants to avoid fights with potential spouses over money.

Scian, who lives in Bowie, Maryland, said she expects to have \$10,000 of her debt forgiven with Biden's plan and hopes to erase the rest through the federal government's Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. She works for the federal government in workforce management, running new hire orientation programs and overseeing travel expenses for employees. Eligibility for the program, which cuts debt for some borrowers, was expanded recently, but the review process can be lengthy.

**'Big first investment in my life'**

For Matthew Baiza, the offer of debt relief makes it possible for him to think about moving out of his family's home in San Antonio, Texas, or starting law school. The 26-year-old attended Stanford University and graduated in 2018. Though the institution offers generous financial aid packages, Baiza said he still had to borrow to get through school.

"My big first investment in my life was really my college education," Baiza said. "This is a big deal for a lot of people. It's going to help us further figure out what's the next step."

Baiza comes from a family of educators, so there was an expectation that he would earn a degree. He was thrilled to be accepted into a top-tier university that accepts only about 5% of applicants. But he quickly realized his peers came from much wealthier backgrounds

than his own. He wanted to see more people from families like his attend college, leading him to a career in community organizing. Baiza is the Texas organizer of the youth advocacy group NextGen America, where he helps to motivate young voters.

The debt has influenced many of Baiza's decisions. He said he chose to move in with his parents after college in part to help manage the loan payments that would kick in six months after graduation. He put on hold other goals, including saving for a home, to concentrate on the student debt.

Baiza graduated with a \$15,000 loan bill, and after paying since January 2019, he has whittled that to less than \$10,000. He expects the rest to be erased under Biden's plan. That means he can think about saving for that down payment, or law school, which he put off to avoid adding to his debt.

**No parents, or 'anyone to tell me what I was signing up for'**

By the time Tulsa, Oklahoma, resident Theron Ogedengbe, 30, graduated with his master's degree in social work from the University of Oklahoma, he said he had racked up about \$71,000 in student loan debt. As a Pell Grant recipient, he is eligible for having as much as \$20,000 of that balance erased under Biden's plan.

Ogedengbe, who grew up in foster care in Oklahoma and California, struggled with housing starting at 17, after he said one foster family threw him out and the next was no more welcoming. He said he spent the year living in a men's shelter and a transitional living program for Tulsa youth. Faced with aging out of the latter, he said he had a critical choice to make.

"Do I face homelessness and living on the streets, or move onto a college campus and get an education?" Ogedengbe said. "I took an education. That was safest."

He said he lived off loans and the money he earned working four jobs. He called his college experience "magical," and has no regrets. Looking back, however, he called federal loan providers "predatory," especially for foster youths.

"I didn't have any parental forces around me, or anyone to tell me what I was signing up for," he said. Ogedengbe said he's grateful for the \$20,000 and a proposal from the Biden administration that would cap monthly payments, once they resume in January, to 5% of a borrower's discretionary income.

'It's just a dark cloud'

In the early '80s, Lisa Blais, now 62, took some evening courses at Boston University. She never earned a degree.

Decades later, when her son told her he hadn't received enough financial aid to start his first year of college, Blais wanted him to have an opportunity she didn't. That's one reason she and her husband took out a Parent PLUS loan to help cover his costs at DeVry University in 2008.

Blais, of Boylston, Massachusetts, said that at first, she and her husband were able to make their payments. Then he became ill and went on disability. Earnings from her job as a technology planner – she helps companies stock the technology they need – were the family's only income.

That made paying back the loan difficult. She said her loan servicer, Navient, guided her toward forbearance, but didn't offer advice about other federal programs meant to make paying debt more accessible. Forbearance meant she could delay payments, but what she owed ultimately kept growing thanks to interest.

Navient has come under fire for steering borrowers toward forbearance instead of other options, and settled a suit filed by 39 state attorneys general over the practice. That helped, but Blais is still on the hook for the remaining \$12,000.

The federal government wiped out the debt owed by some DeVry students, because the for-profit college made misleading statements to students about their job prospects after attending. Blais' son earned a bachelor's degree in computer science, but she said that hasn't translated to long-term employment. Blais' loan hasn't been included in action specific to DeVry, but the new Biden relief plan does and should wipe out \$10,000 of what she owes.

The erasure comes as Blais' anxiety about the end of the freeze on payments had been growing.

"It's just a dark cloud owing something you know you can't pay," Blais said.

**A paycheck for 'something that is not loans'**

Hannah Purnell, 25, moved into a family's basement so she could save money to make bigger payments on her student loans during the payment pause. Purnell, a 25-year-old economic analyst, graduated with an economics degree from Pennsylvania State University in 2018 with about \$93,600 in student loan debt.

It was a daunting figure, a combination of what she owed and what her parents borrowed on her behalf, but she was determined to pay it off. Even before the pandemic, Purnell, who lives in the Philadelphia suburbs, planned to pay down her debt aggressively. But during the payment pause, interest rates on student loans were set at zero percent, giving Purnell an opportunity to pay down her debt, fast.

"I'm endlessly grateful to have been able to pay them mostly off while in interest forbearance," Purnell said. "It saved me likely over \$10,000 in interest alone, given in early 2020 I was paying about \$500 to interest each month."

Purnell said she knows not everyone will want or be able to live in a basement so they can pay down their debt. But for her, cost-cutting measures meant that by May, she had slashed what she owed to about \$10,000. She opted to stop her payments then, in case Biden announced the widespread forgiveness he pledged on the campaign trail. She has also allowed herself to "spend my paycheck on something that is not loans."

Memphis shaken after deadly shooting

Dima Amro and John Bacon

USA TODAY

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Mourning and anger enveloped the city Thursday as authorities sought the motive for a gunman's daylong, livestreamed shooting spree that left four people dead and three people wounded.

The carnage began early Wednesday. As the day progressed, residents in some areas were told to shelter in place, public bus service was suspended, and many restaurants and other public places were shut down as the desperate search intensified.

Ezekiel Dejuan Kelly, 19, was captured Wednesday evening after a carjacking in neighboring Mississippi. Mayor Jim

Strickland expressed outrage that Kelly had been charged with criminal attempted first degree murder two years ago but pleaded guilty in April of 2021 to the lesser charge of aggravated assault. He was sentenced to three years in prison but only served 11 months and was released in March. If Kelly served his full three-year sentence, he would still be in prison "and four of our fellow citizens would still be alive," said Strickland, who expressed condolences to the victims and their families.

"I'm angry for them, and I'm angry that our citizens had to shelter in place for their own safety until the suspect was caught," Strickland said in a statement. "This is no way for us to live and it is not acceptable." Memphis has been shaken by several incidents in recent weeks, including the killing of a pastor during carjacking, the slaying of an activist during an argument over money and the high-profile abduction and murder of Eliza Fletcher, a 34-year-old teacher and mother of two. Mary Dudley, watching police working behind crime scene tape at one of Wednesday's shooting sites, said she was not surprised that this happened in Memphis. "Living in Memphis is like living in every episode of Breaking Bad," Dudley said.

Police received a tip that Kelly was on Facebook Live threatening to "cause harm to citizens," Memphis police Chief Cerelyn Davis said. Police issue an alert a short time later, advising people to stay indoors while they searched for the suspect. Reports rolled in that the gunman was posting videos of his attacks on Facebook. News of the alleged shootings spread across social media, where users posted repotted screen recordings of the shooting suspect's footage. Facebook videos Kelly posted were removed from the platform that night. Kelly's Instagram account was also taken down Wednesday night.

Facebook Live post leads authorities to suspect



Facebook Live post leads authorities to suspect

Police received a tip that Kelly was on Facebook Live threatening to "cause harm to citizens," Memphis police Chief Cerelyn Davis said. Police issue an alert a short time later, advising people to stay indoors while they searched for the suspect.

Reports rolled in that the gunman was posting videos of his attacks on Facebook. News of the alleged shootings spread across social media, where users posted repotted screen recordings of the shooting suspect's footage.

Facebook videos Kelly posted were removed from the platform that night. Kelly's Instagram account was also taken down Wednesday night.

Memphis police work a scene of Wednesday's shooting. CHRISTINE TANNOUS/THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Multiple witnesses saw first shooting

A police affidavit says the first attack took place shortly before 1 a.m. Wednesday. Three people said they saw Kelly fatally shoot Dewayne Tunstall in the head as Tunstall was visiting with friends at a home in Memphis. According to the affidavit, Kelly pulled Tunstall aside and during their conversation, drew a handgun and fired several shots.

Davis said officers responded to three more crime scenes before receiving the tip that the suspect was livestreaming himself and threatening to hurt people.

Carjacking leads to arrest

At 8:53 p.m. Wednesday, police in Southaven, Mississippi, tweeted that officers responded to a vehicle theft at a local gas station. Police swarmed the area, a few miles south of Memphis, and Kelly was arrested when he crashed, ending a high-speed chase.

Police did not reveal a motive for the attacks, and the identities of the victims were not immediately released.

Stadium locked down, MATA suspended

Two cars were stolen during the rampage, police said. A downtown stadium where a minor-league baseball game was underway was placed on lockdown. TV stations cut into regular coverage to keep viewers updated. Friends and relatives called and texted each other to check on each others' safety. The Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) suspended bus and trolley services.

"MATA leaders are acting in an abundance of caution and care for the safety of its drivers and riders," the public transit service issued in a news release Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.

It was not until the news conference at midnight that authorities painted a fuller picture of Kelly's suspected actions, spanning several violent crimes across many miles of Memphis neighborhoods and into Mississippi.

"This has been a horrific week for the city of Memphis and the Memphis Police Department," Davis said.

Bacon reported from Arlington, Va. Contributing: Samuel Hardiman, Laura Testino, Astrid Kayembe, Lucas Finton, Memphis Commercial Appeal; The Associated Press

ADVERTISEMENT

Biblical Bush Relieves Joint Discomfort in as Little as 5 Days

Legendary "special herb" gives new life to old joints without clobbering you. So safe you can take it every day without worry.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 54 million Americans are suffering from joint discomfort.

This epidemic rise in aching joints has led to a search for alternative treatments—as many sufferers want relief without the harmful side effects of conventional "solutions."

Leading the way from nature's pharmacy is the new "King of Oils" that pioneering Florida MD and anti-aging specialist Dr. Al Sears calls "the most significant breakthrough I've ever found for easing joint discomfort."

Biblical scholars treasured this "holy oil." Ancient healers valued it more than gold for its medicinal properties. Marco Polo prized it as he blazed the Silk Road. And Ayurvedic practitioners, to this day, rely on it for healing and detoxification.

Yet what really caught Dr. Sears' attention is how modern medical findings now prove this "King of Oils" can powerfully...

Deactivate 400 Agony-Causing Genes

If you want genuine, long-lasting relief for joint discomfort, you must address inflammation. Too much inflammation will wreak havoc on joints, break down cartilage and cause unending discomfort. This is why so many natural joint relief solutions try to stop one of the main inflammatory genes called COX-2.

But the truth is, there are hundreds of agony-causing genes like COX-2, 5-LOX, iNOS, TNK, Interleukin 1,6,8 and many more—and stopping just one of them won't give you all the relief you need.

Doctors and scientists now confirm the "King of Oils"—Indian Frankincense—deactivates not one but 400 agony-causing genes.

It does so by shutting down the inflammation command center called Nuclear Factor Kappa Beta.

NK-Kappa B is like a switch that can turn 400 inflammatory genes "on" or "off." A study in Journal of Food Lipids reports that Indian Frankincense powerfully deactivates NF-Kappa B. This journal adds that Indian Frankincense is "so powerful it shuts down the pathway triggering aching joints."

Relief That's 10 Times Faster... and in Just 5 Days

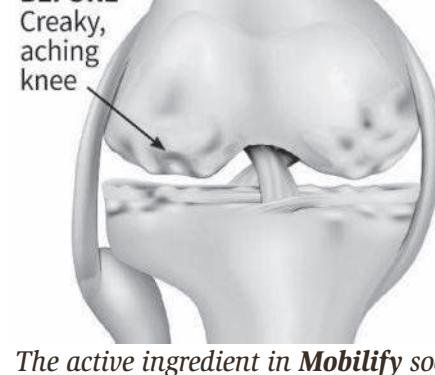
Many joint sufferers prefer natural solutions but say they work too slowly. Take the best-seller glucosamine. Good as it is, the National Institutes of Health reports that glucosamine takes as long as eight weeks to work.

Yet in a study published in the International Journal of Medical Sciences, 60 patients with stiff knees took 100 mg of Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for 30 days. Remarkably, Indian Frankincense "significantly improved joint function and relieved discomfort in as early as five days." That's relief that is 10 times faster than glucosamine.

78% Better Relief Than the Most Popular Joint Solution

In another study, people suffering from discomfort took a formula containing Indian Frankincense and another natural substance or a popular man-made joint solution every day for 12 weeks.

The results? Stunning! At the end of the study, 64% of those taking the Indian Frankincense formula saw their joint discomfort go from moderate or severe to mild or no discomfort. Only 28% of those taking the placebo got the relief they wanted. So Indian



*The active ingredient in **Mobilify** soothes aching joints in as little as 5 days*

Frankincense delivered relief at a 78% better clip than the popular man-made formula.

In addition, in a randomized, double blind, placebo controlled study, patients suffering from knee discomfort took Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for eight weeks. Then the groups switched and got the opposite intervention. Every one of the patients taking Indian Frankincense got relief. That's a 100% success rate—numbers unseen by typical solutions.

In addition, BMJ (formerly the British Medical Journal) reports that Indian Frankincense is safe for joint relief — so safe and natural you can take it every day.

Because of clinically proven results like this, Dr. Sears has made Indian Frankincense the centerpiece of a new natural joint relief formula called **Mobilify**.

Great Results for Knees, Hips, Shoulders and Joints

Joni D. says, "Mobilify really helps with soreness, stiffness and mild temporary pain. The day after taking it, I was completely back to normal—so fast." Shirley M. adds,

"Two weeks after taking **Mobilify**, I had no knee discomfort and could go up and down the staircase." Larry M. says, "After a week and a half of taking **Mobilify**, the discomfort, stiffness and minor aches went away... it's almost like being reborn." And avid golfer Dennis H. says, "I can attest to **Mobilify** easing discomfort to enable me to pursue my golfing days. Definitely one pill that works for me out of the many I have tried."

How to Get **Mobilify**

To secure the hot, new **Mobilify** formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-305-0337** TODAY. "It's not available in retail stores yet," says Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer." Dr. Sears feels so strongly about **Mobilify**, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you all your money back."

Use Promo Code **MBUSAT18** when you call to secure your supply of **Mobilify**. Lines are frequently busy and due to heightened demand, supplies are limited. To secure your supply today, call **1-800-305-0337**.

OPINION

WANT TO COMMENT? Have Your Say at letters@usatoday.com, [@usatodayopinion](https://twitter.com/usatodayopinion) on Twitter and facebook.com/usatodayopinion. Comments are edited for length and clarity. Content submitted to USA TODAY may appear in print, digital or other forms. For letters, include name, address and phone number.

Young Queen Elizabeth inspired a young me

She made it uniquely her brand of woman's work



Connie Schultz
USA TODAY

When I started writing this column, I was in what my mother, a hospice home care worker, used to call the waiting time, when the news looks grim, but hope has yet to make its exit.

Queen Elizabeth's family was gathering at Balmoral Castle, her summer home in Scotland, where doctors were "concerned for Her Majesty's health." In Britain, this is gravest of language when it comes to news about the queen.

I first heard the news about 10 a.m. ET. Immediately I turned to the live broadcast of BBC News, which had suspended all other coverage and begun the public vigil. Grim-faced anchors were dressed in black suits and ties as they delivered updates in somber voices. So different from how we do things on TV here in the United States, I couldn't help but notice.

Queen Elizabeth was dying.

I reached out to my editor: Is there a place, I wondered, to write about what it has meant to be a woman in America inspired by a woman in England called the queen? She was privileged and flawed, but she excelled in a role she never wanted, and made it uniquely her brand of woman's work.

My freedom, her captivity

I was not raised to admire the queen. We were a working-class, union family, steeped in the mantra of our times: the man of the house should be the king of his castle. The king of our home reviled Queen Elizabeth's gilded life, and my mother's Irish roots offered further complications. "The Kennedys are our



The official royal announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth II posted on the gates of Buckingham Palace on Thursday in London. SAMIR HUSSEIN, WIREIMAGE

royalty," my father would say, pointing to the framed photo of the president.

In my early 20s, though, it hit me that Elizabeth was just 25 when her father died at a young age, and she immediately inherited his duties and his life. When I was 25, I was rudderless, a journalism school graduate working as a receptionist and bookkeeper for a temporary job service. At the same age, Queen Elizabeth had suddenly become the most famous woman in the world, with the rest of her life predetermined.

I could suddenly see my freedom – and her captivity. Yes, she lived a life full of servants and people walking backward when exiting her company. But she loved horses and corgis, and being outdoors in wellies and hunting gear, driving her own truck. She had grown up thinking she would become a wife and mother happily living in the country while her father sat on the throne. Instead, with his death, her every public moment would be scrutinized and criticized for all the days of her life.

When she was 18, she joined the

women's branch of the British Army as a mechanic during World War II. My favorite photo of her during that time shows her wearing pants and a tie and leaning against a vehicle, her left foot poised gracefully in front of her right.

She was widely reported to be a hard worker, privately and, most notably, in public, averaging several hundred events a year. "I have to be seen to be believed," she famously said.

She became known for her colorful outfits, which made it easy to see her from a distance, and in a crowd. It takes a level of confidence for a woman to draw attention to herself in this way. It is a self-assurance I do not possess, still.

You'd have to be about 100 years old to remember a time when Elizabeth was not queen of England. She was impossible to ignore. She held her own with 15 prime ministers, starting with Winston Churchill. Several were born after she became queen. Americans should note that she also came to know a total of 13 of the past 14 U.S. presidents.

There is much to criticize about this

enduring monarchy, including its cruelties. I would never deny this, but today I will not grind that stone. Queen Elizabeth kept her internal life out of public view in this era of selfies and public confessions, and while I do not aspire to her level of secrecy, I did find her resolve at times inspiring. When you are stoic in the face of crises, you can become a touchstone for those who need the steady. What I have also come to understand is that a strong woman inspires other women to be strong.

Impossible expectations

She was often mocked for her unflappable demeanor of dignity and grace, but it's a curious criticism, considering how dignity and pride are lifelong aspirations of most of us. Perhaps envy drove the ridicule. Most humans stumble, often badly and in plain sight. Perhaps she embodied what we perceived as unattainable. This rarely brings out the best in us.

We will remember where we were when we heard the news of her passing. Love her, hate her, or find her irrelevant, you will be able to recite the time and place when you learned that Queen Elizabeth had died. I am not British, and so I do not feel her death as a wound to our national identity. As a woman in America, though, I feel deeply the loss of a woman who, every day of her life, tried to live up to the impossible expectations of others.

I was raised by my devout mother to understand that no matter the heights of celebrity or notoriety, death is a solo journey that returns us to who we were in the beginning.

No job titles. No honorifics. No curtseys or bows. Mine is a sincere and simple prayer. Rest.

USA TODAY columnist Connie Schultz is a Pulitzer Prize winner whose novel, "The Daughters of Erietown," is a New York Times bestseller. You can reach her at CSchultz@usatoday.com or on Twitter: @ConnieSchultz

We're still living with 9/11, as we'll live with COVID-19

Life goes on as we cope with terror and anxiety



Thuan Le Elston
USA TODAY

On Sept. 11, 2001, my husband was working at the U.S. Treasury Department when he noticed people running out of the White House next door. He called home to tell me to turn the TV on – just in time to see the second World Trade Center tower crumble.

With thousands of other stunned workers, Bob fled Washington, D.C., on foot. He updated me along the way by cellphone, which not everybody had yet and the only reason we rented one back then was because our third child was due soon.

At the time, my USA TODAY high-rise office was just a couple of miles down the street from the Pentagon, into which bombers crashed a jet at about 9:30 a.m. But that evening, after hearing from my boss that it was all clear, I drove in to work on the copy desk.

It wouldn't be the only time I headed toward a perceived dangerous place after that fateful day.

Suicide bombers attack most populous Muslim country

On Oct. 12, 2002, suicide bombers from an al-Qaida-linked group hit two beach nightclubs on Indonesia's island of Bali. The attack was Asia's deadliest terror strike then, killing 202 people – including 88 Australians and seven Americans – and injuring more than 240. It was the first of a wave of violence that would hit the most populous Muslim-majority nation.

On Aug. 5, 2003, another suicide bomber killed a dozen people at a Marriot hotel in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia.

By then, Bob was working as a counterterrorism analyst and our family was preparing to move to Jakarta, not only with our three young kids but also my mom and Bob's parents. The Marriot bombing didn't change our minds.

The grandparents weren't even on our travel orders from the State Department. But Bob's parents didn't want to be separated from their first grandkids, and my mom jumped at the chance to live in Asia again, close to our native Vietnam. They traveled on civilian passports while the rest of us were issued diplomatic passports, even the toddler born weeks after 9/11.

He celebrated his second birthday that September in Jakarta, where the U.S. Embassy assigned us a two-story, marble-floor house. We'd live there for two years.

While Bob settled into his new job at the embassy, our parents and I settled the family into this foreign city: unpacking, registering the kids into international schools, hiring a housekeeper and a driver, and taking Indonesian classes.

Because of the recent terrorist attacks, the entrance to many places – government buildings, foreign embassies, international schools, our grocery store, big hotels – had security officers screening the undersides of cars for bombs. Even at our gated residential compound, home to 10 mostly Indonesian families, uniformed guards manned the entrance. Inside our house, every bedroom had a red button that when pressed would alert the Marines at the U.S. Embassy.

Back home, family and friends couldn't fathom why we weren't scared to live there. Wasn't Bob's job dangerous? Wouldn't there be another terrorist attack any day now?



Thuan Le Elston's children after the family moved to Indonesia in 2003.

PROVIDED BY ELSTON FAMILY

Remembering this, after more than two years of living with COVID-19, it reminds me of how scared our family with three vulnerable grandparents was at the beginning of the pandemic lockdowns. Masks, gloves, virtual classes, working from home, grocery deliveries, social distancing from loved ones – all were weapons we used to fight disease and death while praying for vaccines.

And now, keeping up with vaccine boosters and still not free of masks, we know the best we can do is take precautions. But you have to live your life.

Precautions everywhere against possible attacks anywhere

In Indonesia two decades ago, security steps were intimidating at first, but after a week everything felt routine.

We realized that you can't live in fear. With precautions everywhere against possible attacks anywhere, we just focused on enjoying all our host country had to offer.

Indonesia is an archipelago of thousands of islands with gorgeous beaches and mountains. Our family didn't just explore the land, we also made a lot of friends and learned from Indonesian

culture and the religion of Islam:

- At the end of the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims fast daily from dawn to sunset, we hosted a breaking-fast dinner for our house staff and their families and were invited to celebrate with our neighbors.

- We – including Bob's parents – became groupies of the rocking Fun Fair band, which covered English-language songs from Guns N' Roses to Shakira.

- In 2004, for the national election, Bob and I took a road trip to Central Java to monitor a voting site, witnessing how Indonesians celebrated this national holiday to cast their ballots.

- We took our kids to nearby Vietnam for the first time – Hanoi, my mom's birthplace, and Saigon, where I was born and where my family had fled at the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

Yes, another terrorist attack hit before our Indonesia tour was over in 2005. On Sept. 9, 2004, we were hosting a lunch for my mom's birthday when a car bomb outside the Australian Embassy killed nine people and wounded 150.

Our house became a haven for our guests and all their spouses and children evacuated from offices and schools. Yes, we were all terrified. And we all knew either people who worked at the Australian Embassy or Australians living in Indonesia. Though in mourning, we had each other, and we knew life would go on. Indonesia would go on. The United States would go on.

Even now. As my third child turns 21, as we enter another anxious COVID fall and winter, as America faces another terrifying election season – my family goes on. We're cautious, but making friends and memories is timeless, and priceless.

Thuan Le Elston, a member of USA TODAY's Editorial Board, is the author of "Rendezvous at the Altar: From Vietnam to Virginia." Follow her on Twitter: @thuanelston

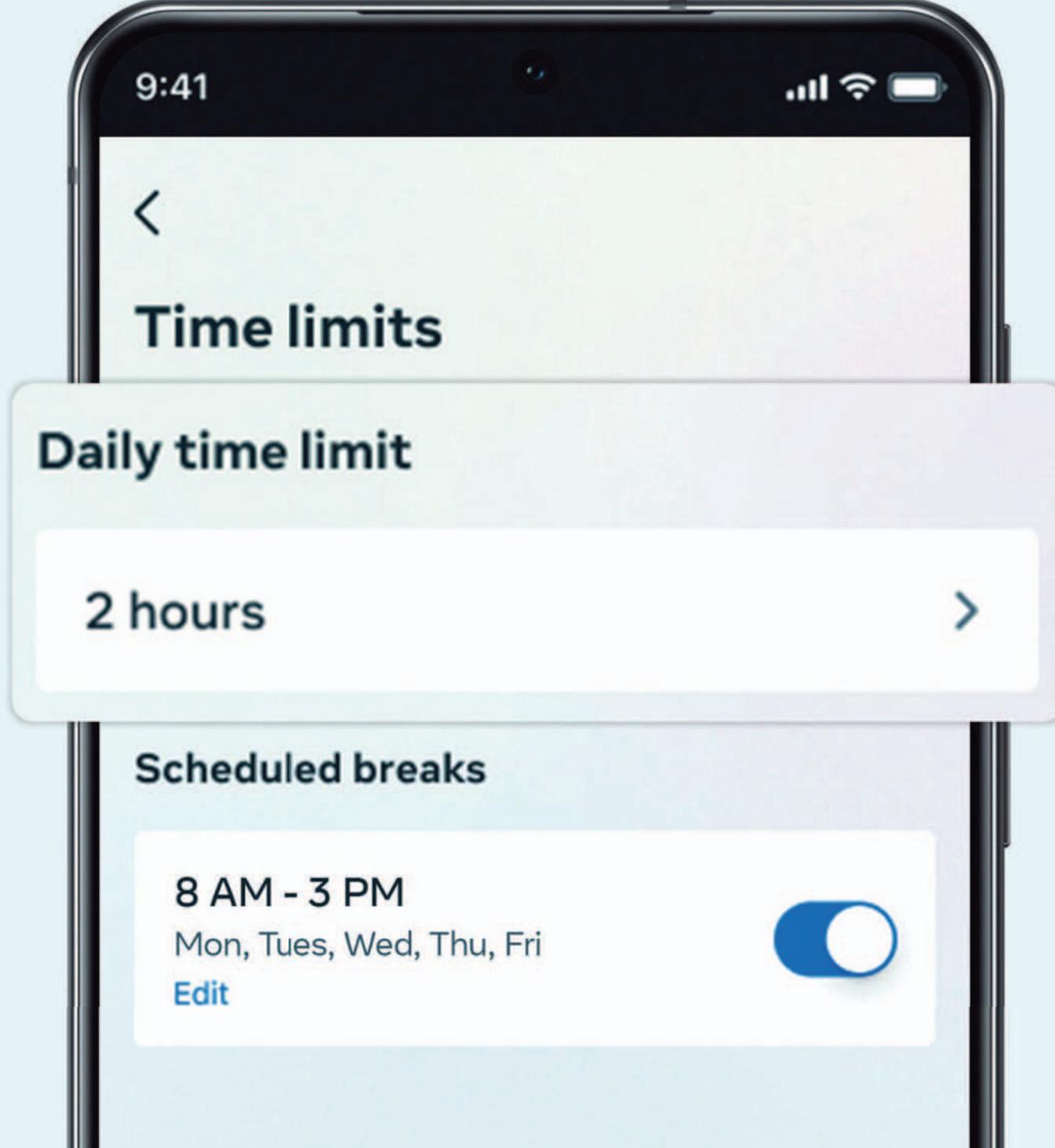
Paid Advertisement



Daily time limits let parents help teens spend time on Instagram more intentionally.*

Explore this feature and more than
30 other tools at instagram.com/safety

*Once supervision in Family Center is set up.



Paid for by Instagram - about.instagram.com

You can check the headlines from your home state or city

We survey and compile the top news stories from all 50 states plus Washington, D.C. **Page 4B**

Upgrading your iPhone to a newer, but not newest model

With Apple's latest product-launch, it could be the perfect time for finding a deal. **Page 6B**

MONEYLINE



JULIO CORTEZ/AP FILE

UNITED MAY STOP SERVING JFK AIRPORT IN OCTOBER

United Airlines could be leaving New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport – again. The Chicago-based airline stopped serving JFK in 2015 to focus on operations at neighboring Newark Liberty International Airport, but it came back in February 2021, snatching up slots other airlines had temporarily given up as travel dipped during the pandemic. Those airlines are taking their slots back and United may "need to suspend service at JFK" next month, officials say.

REPORT: CLEAN ENERGY JOBS GROW, BUT WAGES LAG

Clean energy now provides more employment than the fossil fuel industry, reflecting the shift that efforts to tackle climate change are having on the global jobs market, according to a report Thursday. The International Energy Agency said a post-pandemic jobs rebound in the sector has been driven by emissions-cutting technologies such as electric vehicle production, building insulation, solar projects and wind farms. Clean energy, which under IEA's definition also includes nuclear power, is now estimated to account for more than half the 65 million energy sector jobs across all regions except Russia and the Middle East.

FEWER AMERICANS APPLY FOR JOBLESS AID LAST WEEK

The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits last week fell to its lowest level since May despite repeated attempts by the Federal Reserve to cool the economy and bring inflation under control. Applications for jobless aid for the week ending Sept. 3 fell by 6,000 to 222,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. First-time applications generally reflect layoffs.

Dow Jones Industrial Avg.



THURSDAY MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHG
Dow Jones Industrial Avg.	31,774.52	▲ 193.24
S&P 500	4,006.18	▲ 26.31
Nasdaq composite	11,862.13	▲ 70.23
T-note, 10-year yield	3.323	▲ 0.055

SOURCES: USA TODAY RESEARCH, ASSOCIATED PRESS

USA TODAY SNAPSHTOS ©

Gas Prices

Per gallon of regular unleaded.

Yesterday Avg.	\$3.751
Wednesday Avg.	\$3.764
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.829
Month Ago Avg.	\$4.059
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.181



AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

After boyfriend died, response on TikTok made her feel 'heard by somebody'



Midori Anderson credits TikTok with giving her a platform for her grief.

PROVIDED BY MIDORI ANDERSON

Jessica Guynn and Bailey Schulz USA TODAY

Midori Anderson and Orlando Foreman met on Tinder in the summer of 2019 when they were students at the University of Arkansas. That November, he brought her flowers and tried to spell out "will you be my girlfriend?" in rose petals on her bed but ran out of space. She keeps the card he gave her in her wallet: "I did not want to eat your mom's greens without us being official." • He was Anderson's first boyfriend. After she graduated in 2020, Foreman helped her move home to Plano, Texas, then returned for his senior year.

When he visited one weekend in September, they went out to dinner. On the ride home, Foreman slumped over. She rushed him to the hospital but he died that night. An autopsy showed that the 23-year-old, Romanian-born student had a blockage to his heart.

Anderson was left alone in her apartment, his toothbrush and contact lens case on the sink, his shirts hanging in the closet.

"I feel like when he died, I got lost. I lost my person. I lost someone that I told everything to," said Anderson, 24.

See **TIKTOK GRIEF**, Page 2B



JOEL SAGET/AP VIA GETTY IMAGES

"My strong recommendation is if you are grieving, try your best to find a therapist."

Jacqueline Garcia
Licensed clinical social worker

Experts: Cost of services to keep inflation high

Medora Lee USA TODAY

Don't celebrate a win over inflation yet. Inflation in services hasn't peaked yet, which could mean high prices will be here for a while, economists say.

The Fed's preferred inflation gauge, the core personal consumption expenditures price index that excludes the volatile food and energy sectors, has trended lower, falling to 4.6% in July from 5.3% in February.

But transportation, recreation, accommodation and food services prices, which rose the most last year, surged more than 6% in July, said Tyler Atkinson and Xiaoqing Zhou, economists at the Dallas Federal Reserve, in a report. Those categories contributed 1.3 percentage points (or 31%) to overall core PCE services inflation, they estimated, and have room to add more as real spending in those areas has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels, and tight labor markets push up wages in those labor-intensive sectors.

"This implies that core PCE inflation – even if it has peaked due to declining goods inflation – is likely to fall slowly," the economists said.



Median rents have hit record highs across the country, thanks to inflation and pandemic-related shortages of housing and building supplies.

KENT WEAKLEY
VIA GETTY IMAGES

Snapchat laid off 20% of workers

Still, labor market remains strong

Elisabeth Buchwald
USA TODAY

The labor market is booming. Although the unemployment rate ticked up to 3.7% last month, it's still hovering at a 50-year low. What's more: There are about two job openings for every unemployed person.

But not every sector is immune to layoffs.

More than 41,000 tech workers have been laid off since the beginning of this year, according to a Crunchbase analysis. Included in that tally: Snapchat, which recently announced it was laying off 20% of its workforce, or more than 1,200 employees; and Robinhood, which laid off about 1,000 employees or 30% of its workforce.

These may not be isolated incidents, as half of U.S. firms are expecting staffing reductions, according to survey findings published by PwC in August.

"We're definitely seeing some more layoffs than we were before," said Bill Driscoll, a senior district president at staffing consulting firm Robert Half.

The good news, for now, is that if layoffs impact you, there's a good chance you'll find a new job quickly, experts told USA TODAY.

Why are tech companies laying off workers?

Tech companies tend to suffer more than other industries when interest rates go up because they rely more on outside funding. When interest rates increase, it's more expensive for them to borrow money. Since March, the Federal Reserve has raised interest

See **WORKERS**, Page 2B



Snapchat announced it's laying off 20% of its workforce as the tech company struggles.

PROVIDED BY SNAP

What service areas are adding most to inflation?

Housing and medical services have significant weighting (around 15% and 18%, respectively) in calculating PCE, and are still seeing fast-rising prices.

Rent and the homeowners' equivalent to rent surged to 5.9% in July, from 2% in May 2021, contributing 1.4 percentage points (or 32%) to core PCE services inflation and reflecting with a lag, surging house prices since mid-2020. The economists forecast housing can add another 35 basis points to headline PCE inflation and 40 basis points to core PCE inflation this year before easing in mid-2023 as these prices continue catching up to record home prices.

Another source of likely further upward pressure on PCE inflation is health care services, led by wage growth among hospital workers. The economists expect health care will contribute 70 basis points to year-over-year core PCE inflation in the coming year, 32 basis points more than in second quarter 2022, all else equal.

See **INFLATION**, Page 2B

Workers

Continued from Page 1B

rates by a total of 2.25 percentage points. The central bank is expected to hike rates by another 0.75 percentage point at its meeting later this month.

It's also possible that many tech companies had overly ambitious hiring plans coming out of the pandemic, which ended up being lucrative for many of them.

Where is hiring occurring?

Hiring is strongest in the leisure and hospitality sector, according to data from the Labor Department's most recent Job Openings and Labor Turnover report. But the highest number of job openings is within education and health services followed by professional and business services. Collectively, these two sectors accounted for nearly 4.3 million of the 11.2 million jobs openings across the economy.

People who are laid off from tech jobs shouldn't have too much difficulty securing a new job, said Jim McCoy, senior vice president of staffing firm Manpower: "The tech skill set, in particular, tends to be one of the most fungible and the most desirable across any industry sector."

From what he's observed, the financial sector is being most aggressive at swooping up laid off tech workers. In contrast to tech, banks tend to benefit from rising interest rates.

What should you do to prepare for a potential layoff?

You started hearing murmurs that your employer may be looking into layoffs. You're not sure whether the rumors you've heard are true. Don't carry on as you normally would and wait to find out, McCoy said.

Even as many companies announce layoffs, they often have openings in other divisions or roles. It's worthwhile to consider any openings that interest you or for which you think you're qualified, he said.

Because the labor market is still so tight, it's costly for employers to lose talent even if they need to lay off workers. That's why many employers are offering internal training opportunities to bridge any skills gaps to help you get into a new role, McCoy added.

"It's still absolutely a war for talent out there," Driscoll said. "So the employee is still very, very much in the driver's seat." Even though he thinks most workers don't need to be worried about layoffs now, it's a good time to "make yourself indispensable to your employers."

You can do this by asking for additional responsibilities or taking on challenging projects, he said.

Also, make sure your LinkedIn profile and resume are up to date. If you end up being impacted by layoffs, McCoy recommends adding the "open to work" frame around your profile picture since it "makes you really appealing to recruiters."

Inflation

Continued from Page 1B

What does this ultimately mean for consumers?

The Fed will likely continue aggressively raising interest rates to cool demand, by discouraging borrowing and spending and slow inflation.

The Fed has already increased its short-term benchmark fed funds rate this year to 2.25% and 2.5%, from near zero. But with inflation still high, Fed Chair Jerome Powell has said rates will have to rise further and stay there for some time.

Many economists predict the Fed will hike rates another 1.5% by year end.

Although the Fed doesn't control consumer interest rates like those on home and auto loans or credit cards, its rate increases ripple through the economy and eventually consumers pay more. Last week, for example, the average credit card rate reached 17.96%, the highest since January 1996, according to Bankrate.com.

With even higher rates ahead, consumers should try to pay off credit card debt.

"Forget about chasing rewards," said Ted Rossman, a Bankrate senior industry analyst.

TikTok grief

Continued from Page 1B

She made a TikTok video: "A Day in a Life of a Grieving Girlfriend." It got 900,000 likes.

"TikTok made me feel like I was being heard by somebody," she said.

That's where she packed a memory box for Foreman, showed off her new tattoo ("dragostea mea," my love in Romanian) and observed the one-year anniversary of his death.

"Besides my mom and a therapist, TikTok is what helped me stay alive during one of the hardest times in my life," Anderson said.

How we share our heartbreak on TikTok

TikTok is helping a new generation cope with death and loss.

Young people share deeply personal and vulnerable moments of heartbreak in short-form videos, creating a sense of community and easing loneliness, grief experts say.

With hashtags like #grieftok, #griefjourney, #grief, #griefandloss and #loss, raw sorrow mingles with celebrations of life on TikTok.

Videos include a daughter missing her mom, who died after a nine-year struggle with lung cancer, and her brother, who was diagnosed with lymphoma that same night and died seven months later. Another shows a mother releasing butterflies in memory of her young daughter who died of cancer.

"On TikTok, they're very open," said Moa Eriksson Krutrok, an associate professor in media and communications at Umeå University in Sweden. "People are sharing their innermost selves."

According to Krutrok, the secret sauce is TikTok's "For You" feed which is curated by recommendation algorithms.

In some cases, those algorithms have sent people down dark rabbit holes. TikTok says it has retrained its algorithms to recognize potentially harmful patterns and keep people from spiraling into sadness. TikTok also lets users filter out videos with words or hashtags they don't want to see in their "For You" or "Following" feeds.

"These algorithms (connect us) to other people that might be feeling the same way as we are," Krutrok said.

'A comfort I never thought I could receive from millions'

TikTok was all K-pop for Lisa Lu before she responded to a callout from the mega-star group BTS to create a video using the song "Life Goes On."

The lyric – "Like an arrow in the blue sky, another day flying by" – reminded Lu of her mom, Priscilla Chiu, who died in 2018 from pancreatic cancer, guiding her "til the end" like the arrow.

Around 2 a.m., Lu posted a 40-second video showing Chiu through the years: grainy home footage of her as a young mom with Lu; Chiu beaming at the camera after her hair fell out; a close-up of her fastening a necklace around Lu's neck on her wedding day.

"Something she always taught me as she was passing was that the best thing I could do for her was to move on and go onward. And that's how I can honor her and this life she gave us," Lu said. "Knowing all of that, I was able to pour my heart out into this video."

Lu woke up to thousands of comments and likes.

"People kept commenting on her beautiful smile and how much they could see the love in my mom's eyes," Lu said. "That in itself was a comfort I never thought I could receive from millions of strangers."

With Facebook and Instagram, grief was no longer invisible

Because of social media, public expressions of grief are no longer seen as taboo, says Heather Servaty-Seib, a counseling psychology professor who leads the grief and loss research team at Purdue University.

"There's potential for it to make grief and loss more talkable," she said.

Seeking out human connection on Facebook or TikTok became even more common during the COVID-19 pandemic as people coped with loss while grieving from a distance, says Chinasa Elue, an associate professor of educational leadership and higher education at Kennesaw State University in Georgia.

Elue began researching grief after her mother died in early 2019, nine months before the nation entered lockdowns. She said she found solace in turning to Instagram.



"The internet democratized grief," says Vivian Nunez, 29, a writer, content creator and host of the podcast "Happy to Be Here." PROVIDED BY VIVIAN NUNEZ



Lisa Lu and her mom, Priscilla Chiu, on Mother's Day in 2017. LISA LU

"People kept commenting on her beautiful smile and how much they could see the love in my mom's eyes. That in itself was a comfort I never thought I could receive from millions of strangers."

Lisa Lu

"After the dust settles, after people stopped showing up with the meals, after the funeral is over, a lot of times we're left alone to really deal with the hard work of grieving," Elue said. "The online spaces, especially in the midst of the pandemic, provided a very important outlet for people to be able to really share their own grief journey."

Vivian Nunez lived the difference between grieving with social media and without it.

Nunez was in elementary school in 2003 when her mom died. A shy kid growing up in the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York City and part of an Ecuadorian American family that did not openly discuss loss, she confided her feelings in a journal.

"I felt like that was the only way I was going to feel comforted by someone who got me," she says. "There was no way for me to connect with other people."

In her senior year of college when she was 21, her grandmother who was like a second mother died, too. Nunez couldn't bear to feel so alone again. She started an Instagram account in 2014.

At the time, few Instagram accounts were openly talking about death and loss. She made lifelong connections through Instagram. That led to therapy for anxiety and depression and a career focused on grief and well-being.

"The internet democratized grief," said Nunez, 29, a writer, content creator and host of the podcast "Happy to Be Here." "It was no longer just these experiences you could talk about in small therapy groups that may not be affordable for a lot of people. It was free."

'I know what it's like to go into that black hole of grief'

When Carolyn Moor's husband Chad, an architect, was killed in a hit-and-run collision while they were driving home from a dinner on Valentine's Day in 2000, she was suddenly alone at 37 with two young daughters.

"I know what it's like to go into the black hole of grief. You have this experience. You leave the hospital. You leave with whatever brochures are handed to you, maybe from the funeral home, and good luck with that," said Moor, 59, who lives in Orlando, Florida.

After appearing on Oprah Winfrey's TV show to talk about grief, other widows began reaching out. She founded the Modern Widows Club and held meetings in her living room. The turning point for the organization came in 2011 when it joined Facebook and in 2014 when it joined Instagram.

Both platforms made it easier for widows, even from remote areas, to connect.

"It is such a lifesaver," says Sabra Robinson, who was widowed in 2012 after her husband died of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

When she couldn't find a grief support group for Black widows, she started her own. Its ranks surged during the pandemic. Members gather in a private Facebook group to speak openly about loss or to get tips on Social Security benefits, even dating. "Tickle Me Tuesday" where widows post funny memes and live "Friday Night Joy" sessions buoy spirits.

"It is something that has actually saved the lives of many women," said Robinson, founder of Black Women Widows Empowered who lives in Charlotte, North Carolina.

YouTube changes how we think about grief

Social media has become a supportive place to grieve all kinds of losses, says YouTuber and licensed therapist Kati Morton.

"I think we've often been told that grief is just something that happens when someone dies," Morton said. But "we can grieve a lot of things." A breakup. A job loss. Even the social isolation during the pandemic.

"I think that people are just feeling good to actually hear that other people are going through something similar, that they're not alone and that there is a word to put to it," Morton said.

For Molly Burke, a YouTuber who is legally blind, that means mourning the death of her guide dogs. At 28, she's already had to say goodbye to three and struggles with the inevitability of losing more.

"They are just so much more than an animal to us. They are literally a lifeline," Burke said. "If I don't have my dog, I am significantly less independent. My confidence certainly goes down. How safe and secure I feel plummets."

While she made the video to help others, Burke said she also helped herself.

"It's almost like therapy, you know?" she said. "You just kind of start unravelling your own thoughts."

Grieving on TikTok is no substitute for therapy

TikTok is not a substitute for professional help, says licensed clinical social worker Jacqueline Garcia, who has more than 67,000 followers who watch her videos on mental health. Most people need more than 30-second videos to work through their feelings. And not everyone handing out advice on TikTok is an expert.

"Grief doesn't look pretty, it doesn't feel pretty. It can definitely be such a scary thing to experience," she said. "My strong recommendation is if you are grieving, try your best to find a therapist. (Social media) is not therapy."

Dr. Serign Marong, 43, a family physician from Tucson, Arizona, began posting TikToks after his first wife died in 2014 from a blood clot in her lungs.

He said 99% of responses have been positive, with many users chiming in with their own experiences. But there have also been hurtful comments.

"Some people wanted to get snarky on there and say things like, 'Oh, I bet she had the COVID vaccine,'" he said, even though his wife died years before the pandemic.

But Marong says being so open on TikTok became a pivotal part of his grieving process.

"There was a point where it was really dark for me," Marong said. "... I remember at one point, it came down to, what did I want my legacy to be?" he said, referring to his children. "Once I started processing things and talking about things with people, I kind of got some motivation back."

Student debt relief is taxable if you live in these 7 states



DOUGLAS RISSING/GETTY IMAGES

Katie Wedell USA TODAY

President Joe Biden's executive action to erase up to \$20,000 in student loan debt has caused some confusion over whether borrowers will have to pay state taxes on their forgiven debt. • While many states automatically match their tax rules with the Internal Revenue Code, others will have to decide whether or not to make changes to allow people to avoid these taxes.

Which states may tax student loan forgiveness?

The following states could tax debt forgiveness under current laws, according to the nonprofit Tax Foundation.

Arkansas: The state tax code is silent on the treatment of student loan debt forgiveness, so the ordinary rule that a discharge of indebtedness constitutes taxable income should prevail absent state action, according to the Tax Foundation.

California: The Tax Foundation said California has confirmed that it will tax student loan debt discharge under current law. An existing law exempting student loans canceled pursuant to income-based repayment programs will not apply.

Indiana: The Indiana Department of Revenue confirmed in an email to the Associated Press this week that residents are required to list their forgiven loans as taxable income per Indiana law.

Minnesota: State law currently lacks any provision to exclude student loan debt cancellation from income, per the Tax Foundation.

Mississippi: State law considered discharged debt taxable income and is in line to tax student loan debt forgiveness, according to the Tax Foundation.

North Carolina: A state statute taxes student loan debt forgiveness, according to the Tax Foundation.

Wisconsin: State tax law would include debt forgiveness as taxable income. "Wisconsinites who have their student loans forgiven by the federal government shouldn't be penalized by having to pay more income taxes," a spokesperson for Democratic Gov. Tony Evers said in an emailed response to USA TODAY.

Why some people might have to pay taxes on student loan forgiveness

Borrowers will not owe federal taxes on student debt relief because of a provision tucked into the American Rescue Plan Act in 2021. It also exempts any loans that are forgiven through 2025.

But because not all states follow the federal tax code, some student debt forgiveness could face state taxes.

Some states have already taken legislative action to exempt debt forgiveness from taxes, and others could do so in the coming weeks and months.

How to report debt forgiveness to the IRS

Borrowers benefiting from tax forgiveness might not immediately think of the \$10,000 being forgiven as income, since they are not getting money deposited into their bank account. But in states that tax this forgiveness, it will be considered taxable income and will need to be reported under the "other income" section of your tax return. "It's a confusing program to start with," said Mark Steber, chief tax information officer at Jackson Hewitt. "If you're in any one of those situations where it's not perfectly clear, get some help."

Contributing: Maureen Groppe, USA TODAY

Do travel loyalty programs still have future?

Advice on choosing one that won't lose value

On Travel
Christopher Elliott
USA TODAY

What's the point of participating in a travel loyalty program anymore? Frequent travelers like Joel Smiler can't think of one.

"There is little to no value in status anymore," said Smiler, a retired veterinarian from Lakeville, Michigan. "There are few upgrades, no dedicated customer service lines that get you to a representative sooner, and no early boarding in some cases."

He says he's done being loyal and will no longer actively participate in any program.

There have always been travelers like Smiler who don't follow the herds of consumers collecting points and miles. But now there's evidence their ranks are growing. And that has people wondering if loyalty programs have a future after the pandemic.

"Travel loyalty programs are on the decline," said Humphrey Ho, managing director of Hylink Digital USA, a digital marketing agency. "Many programs are experiencing post-pandemic inflation, and there's been a decline in users."

A report by travel technology company Arrivia found that less than half of Americans think points are important to travel, and only 42% used their awards to lower the cost of a trip. Even executives agree that their loyalty programs are lacking, with nearly one-third admitting that they struggle to demonstrate the value of their rewards.

Most problematic: Younger travelers don't seem to be that loyal. Only 35% of Gen Z travelers participate in a travel loyalty program, according to research by Morning Consult. The industry average is 43%. "Their awareness of loyalty programs is low," said travel analyst Lindsey Roeschke.

This travel trend is a long time coming. The pandemic made many travelers take a hard look at their loyalties. What they often found were programs that weren't loyal to them. And although there are notable exceptions, it seems we are headed to a reckoning of sorts when it comes to loyalty programs.

Travelers started questioning their loyalties in the pandemic

Travel loyalty programs are at the center of America's travel industry. Millions of people slavishly collect points so they can later reap the rewards of "free" travel. They often do so without asking basic questions like, Who's paying for this? And who is the real beneficiary?

The economics behind the system are troubling. Customers pay for these "free" perks with fees and inflated travel

prices. Airlines earn billions of dollars a year from selling miles to credit card companies, which pass them along to their customers for "free." Airline loyalty programs are routinely valued at more than the airlines themselves. Unsurprisingly, the biggest beneficiaries are airlines and hotels, and the credit card companies that buy their points.

But now, cracks are starting to form in the wildly profitable loyalty scheme. Early in the pandemic, frequent travelers began to ask questions the travel industry didn't want them to ask. Some concluded that loyalty programs just weren't worth it.

Tim Plyant, a tech industry manager from Austin, Texas, is among them.

"It is difficult being tied to a particular airline because of the restricted schedules," he said. "And with less business travel and credit cards that let you use your points on any airline, you don't have to."

Plyant had hoped airlines would seize the moment during the pandemic to make themselves more relevant and valuable to their top customers. But instead, they fumbled by delaying and canceling flights and too often not even trying to make it up to their customers.

Passengers like Plyant don't even care about the dubious economics of loyalty programs. They just want the travel companies to take care of them as they promised. But they didn't. And that is why some frequent travelers believe loyalty is dead.

How much are your points worth?

Another reason travelers are losing interest in loyalty programs is that they have realized that their points are worth less. Travel companies removed many perks during the pandemic or made it more difficult to redeem their miles for "free" tickets. That led to point inflation, which means it sometimes takes more points to get the same award ticket or room.

Scott McMurren, an Alaska Airlines frequent flier, was stunned when he read about his airline giving 90,000 miles to each employee.

"I've got a sinking feeling," says McMurren, who publishes TourSaver.com, a coupon book for visitors to Alaska. "It appears the airline is self-fueling inflation for its travelers – including me – who use miles to get tickets. In my mind, the airline is simply harvesting the substantial equity it's built up with the program."

Alaska Airlines said the mileage awards to its employees were a "one-time" gift in celebration of the airline's 90th anniversary. A representative said it plans no award pricing changes related to it.

But McMurren's complaint raises a bigger question about the value of these programs. When an airline can do whatever it wants – raise redemption levels, change the rules, even confiscate all the miles – then what's the true value of the program? How much are your points even worth?



GETTY IMAGES

How to choose a loyalty program

• **Conduct a loyalty program audit:** That's the advice of frequent traveler Brad Chase. He checked his loyalty portfolio recently and concluded that some of the hotels he'd worked with were not reciprocating the loyalty he showed them. One hotel chain in particular "nickel-and-dimed" him despite his elite status. "Hilton takes excellent care of me, particularly at the Waldorf properties, so I'll keep that one and enjoy it," said Chase, who runs a communications firm in Seattle.

• **Focus on a flexible program:** Pick programs where points don't expire, said Tim Hentschel, CEO of HotelPlanner.com. "That way, you never feel pressure to travel because of a 'use it or lose it' deadline," he said. "If your customer loyalty is meant to last forever, your points should too." Hentschel also advises you to choose a program that allows you to use partial points for added flexibility and accessibility. For example, Hilton Honors allows travelers to pay for hotel stays with a combination of points and dollars.

• **Look beyond the points:** Ultimately, you have to ask: What's in it for you? "For vacationers, the quality of their experience is the bottom line," said Kenneth Purcell, CEO of iSeatZ, a loyalty technology company. "Not the return they get on their status. Purcell says the most valuable loyalty programs meet this demand with personalized options. These include supplementary rewards and products, such as tours and activities, car rentals and food delivery."

Some doubling down on programs

Not everyone is a skeptic. Heather Prestanski, who owns an interior design firm that specializes in historic renovation projects, said she's all in on her travel loyalty programs.

"I've doubled down on our travel loyalty programs," she said. "I've shifted from only using my credit card rewards program to becoming more loyal to spe-

cific hotel brands, car rental brands, and flight carriers to collect more points, enjoy faster check-ins and receive a higher level of service while traveling."

Prestanski said her loyalty has saved her time and money. For example, she found a discounted block of rooms in Las Vegas for a recent company meeting, thanks to her status. Prestanski even scored "free" airline tickets. "And we extended our stay for a personal vacation," she added.

Companies are investing in their loyalty programs, too.

Expedia Brands, which currently has 154 million loyalty members, reportedly adds several million new members each month. Next year, Expedia is rolling out its One Key platform, which will allow frequent travelers to redeem their rewards across flights, hotels, vacation rentals, car rentals, cruises and activities.

"Loyalty programs aren't dying," said Jon Gieselman, president of Expedia Brands. "They just need to get better."

But even mileage skeptics would point out that loyalty programs are created for frequent business travelers like Prestanski. And for them, loyalty programs do have a future – and rightfully so.

End is not near until this happens

The rest of us would be forgiven for any acts of disloyalty.

After this summer's airline service failures and the substandard service many hotels and car rental companies gave their customers, is it even appropriate to show a travel company any kind of loyalty?

So when will the end come for travel loyalty programs? I asked Hal Brierley, a loyalty program consultant who helped create American Airlines' AAdvantage program.

He said it would take a dramatic shift in consumer behavior – either a bank that offers a rewards-less credit card or a significant number of consumers who say they no longer want points or miles.

"If these programs are at risk, the first sign will be a drop in the number of consumers paying significant annual fees to earn their miles and points," Brierley said. Sharon Anne Kean, head of global expansion at the financial services company Wise, said it's an idea they're considering.

A card that made all fees transparent, showing how much you pay for services like currency conversions and transactions, might appeal to some minimalists who want to save money.

"We want to help customers see how they're being ripped off by the banks," she added. "That would be cool."

What about that generation gap? Brierley said he's heard the same argument about the younger generation rejecting loyalty programs for years. But he's not worried.

"As they get older and start traveling," Brierley added, "the kids will want their points and free tickets. I'm sure of it."

AMERICA'S MARKETS

ALL THE MARKET ACTION IN REAL TIME
MARKETS.USATODAY.COM

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE

+193.24Closing: 31,774.52
Change: +.6%
YTD % Chg: -12.6%

S&P 500 • STANDARD & POOR'S

+26.31Closing: 4,006.18
Change: +.7%
YTD % Chg: -16.0%

MARKET PERFORMANCE BY SECTOR

Sector	Close	Chg.	4wk ¹	YTD ¹
Energy	78.64	+0.34	+1.0%	+41.7%
Utilities	77.07	-0.06	+2.1%	+7.7%
Consumer staples	73.26	-0.19	-2.1%	-5.0%
Health care	129.36	+2.21	-1.9%	-8.2%
Industrials	94.07	+0.28	-4.4%	-11.1%
Financials	34.05	+0.59	-2.7%	-12.8%
Materials	76.91	+0.74	-3.4%	-15.1%
Consumer discret.	161.42	+1.49	-2.8%	-21.0%
Technology	134.54	+0.46	-8.9%	-22.6%
Telecom	58.68	-0.33	-7.6%	-28.6%

S&P 500'S BIGGEST GAINERS

Company (ticker)	Price	\$ Chg.	% Chg.	YTD
Regeneron Pharm (REGN)	708.85	+112.41	+18.8	+12.2
Freepoint McMoRan (FCX)	30.62	+2.24	+7.9	+26.6
Invesco Ltd (IVZ)	17.36	+.79	+4.8	+24.6
Moderna Inc (MRNA)	141.28	+6.38	+4.7	+44.4
On Semiconductor (ON)	70.55	+3.19	+4.7	+3.9

Company (ticker)	Price	\$ Chg.	% Chg.	YTD
Regeneron Pharm (REGN)	708.85	+112.41	+18.8	+12.2
Freepoint McMoRan (FCX)	30.62	+2.24	+7.9	+26.6
Invesco Ltd (IVZ)	17.36	+.79	+4.8	+24.6
Moderna Inc (MRNA)	141.28	+6.38	+4.7	+44.4
On Semiconductor (ON)	70.55	+3.19	+4.7	+3.9

ALABAMA **Montgomery:** An Alabama Department of Archives and History exhibit opening Saturday documents a century-old radio rivalry and the state's broadcasting past.

ALASKA **Juneau:** Victor Kohring, a former lawmaker who was caught up in a corruption scandal that roiled the Legislature more than 15 years ago, has died in a vehicle crash.

ARIZONA **Phoenix:** Students performed better on state assessments last spring, but most still failed to pass the English and math tests.

ARKANSAS **Little Rock:** Arkansas State Police have given a special prosecutor the findings of their investigation into officers caught on video beating and holding down a suspect, a spokesman said Thursday.

CALIFORNIA **Sacramento:** The state moved Wednesday to become the first in the nation to lower insurance costs for property owners who make improvements to reduce fire risk, the state's insurance commissioner said.

COLORADO **Denver:** A county clerk accused of allowing an unauthorized person to break into her county's election system in search of proof of the conspiracy theories spun by ex-President Donald Trump pleaded not guilty to all charges Wednesday.

CONNECTICUT **Plainfield:** Pandemic-related supply chain issues prevented city police from hitting the state's dashboard camera requirement, officials said, but they hope to have the systems in place by early next year.

DELAWARE **Wilmington:** After years of sexual harassment claims inside the New Castle County Police Department were substantiated, the state Department of Justice and the county have finalized an agreement allowing for an assigned monitor to review complaints for the next three years.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA **Washington:** Mayor Muriel Bowser declared a state of emergency and created a new governmental task force Thursday in response to the busloads of migrants coming to the city from Texas and Arizona, WUSA-TV reports.

FLORIDA **Miami:** The Miami-Dade School Board overwhelmingly decided against recognizing October as LGBTQ History Month, including a measure to teach 12th graders about two key U.S. Supreme Court cases.

GEORGIA **Atlanta:** A pastor, political operative and former high-ranking city official was sentenced Thursday to 14 years in prison after a jury found her guilty of charges stemming from a long-running federal investigation into corruption at City Hall.

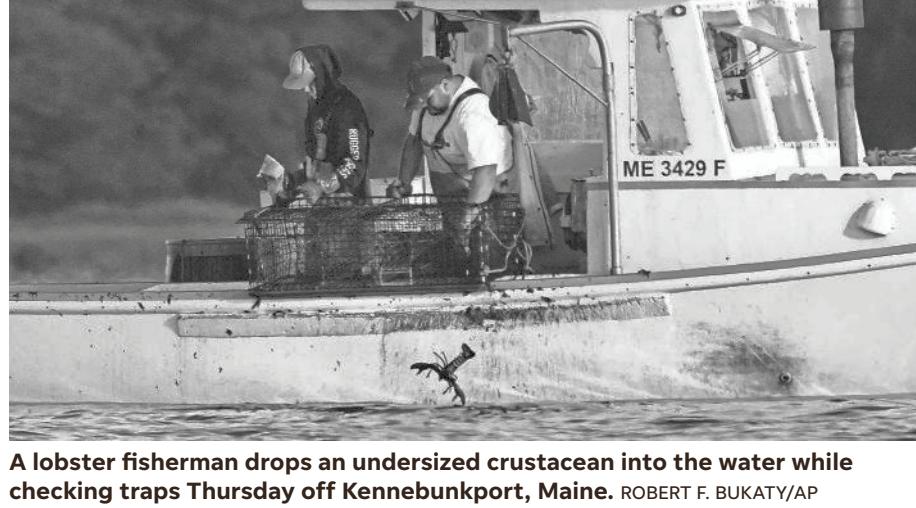
HAWAII **Honolulu:** The U.S. military on Wednesday said it now expects to remove fuel from a leaky tank farm five months earlier, in July 2024.

IDAHO **Boise:** The Legislature has asked a federal judge to reconsider a decision blocking enforcement of an abortion ban in medical emergencies.

ILLINOIS **Chicago:** A federal judge has OK'd a \$9.25 million settlement by Chicago Public Schools and a teachers union in two lawsuits stemming from the layoffs of hundreds of Black educators at underperforming schools, officials said Wednesday.

INDIANA **Indianapolis:** The state attorney general's office has asked a federal appeals court to overturn a judge's order against a law that bars transgender female students from competing in girls' school sports.

HIGHLIGHT: MAINE



A lobster fisherman drops an undersized crustacean into the water while checking traps Thursday off Kennebunkport, Maine. ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP

Portland: Some retailers are taking lobster off the menu after an assessment from an influential conservation group that the harvest of the seafood poses too much of a risk to rare whales and should be avoided. Thousands of businesses use Seafood Watch's recommendations to inform seafood buying decisions, and many have pledged to avoid any items that appear on the red list, including meal kit companies Blue Apron and HelloFresh. But members of the lobster fishing industry pushed back. The lobster industry in Maine has not had a documented interaction with a right whale in almost two decades, said Patrice McCarron, executive director of the Maine Lobstermen's Association.

IOWA **Dubuque:** A large cruise ship is making its way down the Mississippi River in its inaugural voyage, with stops in Dubuque, Davenport and Burlington.

KANSAS **Topeka:** Gov. Laura Kelly has announced a new office aimed at boosting apprenticeships and helping bolster Kansas' workforce.

KENTUCKY **Louisville:** Jefferson County's top prosecutor will not drop charges against Breonna Taylor protesters whose cases are still making their way through court, despite renewed calls to do so.

LOUISIANA **Houma:** Fourteen Terrebonne Parish jail inmates donated their own money from a work release program to buy school supplies for four elementary schools.

MARYLAND **Baltimore:** City officials lifted a boil water advisory Wednesday in some areas, days after E. coli bacteria were detected.

MASSACHUSETTS **Provincetown:** A new exhibit at Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum delves into how the fishing enclave became a safe harbor for LGBTQ people.

MICHIGAN **Lansing:** A special prosecutor has been appointed to investigate whether the GOP candidate for attorney general and others should be charged for their attempts to gain access to voting machines.

MINNESOTA **St. Cloud:** The city is on track to break another record for drug overdose deaths this year.

MISSISSIPPI **Jackson:** The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Wednesday that he wants the city to get "its fair share" of federal money to repair its long-troubled water system.

MISSOURI **Stockton:** A boarding school already under scrutiny amid physical and sexual abuse allegations may soon be shut down following a judge's ruling.

MONTANA **Great Falls:** First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park is offering visitors a chance to experience the lore, science and celestial beauty of the harvest moon at a Full Moon Star Party on Saturday.

NASDAQ COMPOSITE

+70.23Closing: 11,862.13
Change: +.6%
YTD % Chg: -24.2%

TOP 10 EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

ETF, ranked by volume	Ticker	Close	Chg.	% Chg.	% YTD
ProShs UltraPro QQQ	TQQQ	28.06	+0.45	+1.6%	-66.3%
ProShs UltPro ShtQQQ	SQQQ	44.69	-0.73	-1.6%	+50.5%
Direx SOX Bull 3X	SOXL	13.65	+0.66	+5.1%	-79.9%
SPDR S&P500 ETF Tr	SPY	400.38	+2.60	+0.7%	-15.7%
Invesco QQQ Trust	QQQ	300.52	+1.55	+0.5%	-24.5%
iShares Emerg Mkts	EEM	38.43	-0.21	-0.5%	-21.3%
SPDR Financial	XLF	34.05	+0.59	+1.8%	-12.8%
ProShs Short S&P	SH	15.52	-0.09	-0.6%	+14.0%
ProShs Short S&P	EWZ	30.50	-0.03	-0.1%	+8.7%

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Currency per dollar	Close	Prev.	6 mo. ago	Yr. ago
British pound	.8697	.8694	.7629	.7256
Canadian dollar	1.3098	1.3141	1.2890	1.2673
Chinese yuan	6.9576	6.9661	6.3187	6.4618
Euro	1.0008	1.0018	.9168	.8458
Japanese yen	144.03	144.15	115.74	110.23
Mexican peso	19.9567	19.9998	21.3272	19.9352

RUSSELL 2000

+14.90Closing: 1,846.91
Change: +.8%
YTD % Chg: -17.7%

COMMODITIES

Commodities	Close	Prev.	Chg.	% Chg.	% YTD
Cattle (lb.)	1.44	1.44	unch.	+0.1%	+3.9%
Corn (bushel)	6.75	6.77	-0.02	-0.3%	+13.7%
Gold (troy oz.)	1,708.00	1,715.30	-7.30	-0.4%	-6.5%
Hogs, lean (lb.)	.92	.91	.01	+1.2%	+13.1%
Natural Gas (Btu.)	7.92	7.84	+0.08	+0.9%	+112.2%
Oil, heating (gal.)	3.54	3.59	-0.05	-1.3%	+52.1%
Oil, lt. svwt. crude (bar.)	83.54	81.94	+1.60	+2.0%	+11.1%
Silver (troy oz.)	18.33	18.14	+0.19	+1.1%	+21.4%
Soybeans (bushel)	14.71	14.67	+0.04	+0.3%	+10.7%
Wheat (bushel)	8.11	8.27	-0.16	-1.9%	+5.2%

FOREIGN MARKETS

Country	Close	Prev.	Change	% Chg.</th

Like coffee for your intellect.



Sign up for one of our most popular newsletters.

Get plugged-in to your passions before taking on the rest of the day. From the *Daily Briefing* to *The Short List*, *Travel*, *Life*, *Talking Tech*, or *Managing Your Money*, you can pick one or many to arrive each week in your inbox.



**USA
TODAY**

Find a free newsletter you'll love!
usatoday.com/newsletters

iPhone 12 or 13 could be upgrade at discount

Rob Pegoraro
Special to USA TODAY

For iPhone users who have been plugging away with an aging model, the smartphone to consider after Apple's latest product-launch event might not be its new iPhone 14 series.

Instead, their upgrade could be the older iPhone 12 and 13, both fully compatible with U.S. 5G networks and with Apple's iOS, and both of which Apple now sells for \$100 less.

That brings the starting price of the 2020-vintage iPhone 12 down to \$599, while last year's iPhone 13 now starts at \$599 in its mini version and \$699 in the standard size. The new iPhone 14, meanwhile, will start at \$799 when it goes on preorder on Friday.

The updated iPhone SE that Apple introduced in January remains unchanged at \$429, but its 4.7-inch display may represent a deal breaker for people now accustomed to larger devices such as the 13 mini, with a 5.4-inch screen, or the 12, 13 and 14 with their 6.1-inch screens.

The 12 and 13 lack the 14's upgraded camera hardware and software as well as its Emergency SOS feature to summon help via satellite. But those older models offer the same support for the most useful 5G: the fast, midband frequencies that T-Mobile sells as "Ultra Capacity," AT&T markets as "5G+" and Verizon as "Ultra Wideband."

AT&T customers, however, should note that in addition to those "C-band" frequencies, that carrier is also now lighting up a separate chunk of midband spectrum that it will support on the iPhone 14, but not the 13 or 12.

Either recent iPhone would provide a huge speedup compared to an older, 4G-only iPhone, assuming your carrier has midband 5G in your usual whereabouts.

Either would provide a huge speedup compared to an older, 4G-only



Apple unveils its new iPhone 14 devices at its event Wednesday in Cupertino, Calif. Older devices also work. JENNIFER JOLLY/SPECIAL TO USA TODAY

iPhone—assuming your carrier has midband 5G in your usual whereabouts. And yes, people still hanging on to a 5-year-old iPhone 8 do exist.

"The average time that people hang on to their phones has been steadily increasing," said analyst Avi Greengart, founder and lead analyst at Techspontial, after attending Apple's event. "And there are certainly a lot of late adopters out there."

Another industry analyst, Wave7 Research principal Jeffrey Moore, concurred in an email: "Big picture is that upgrade rates for smartphone purchases have been falling."

Apple has made it easy to stick with aging iPhones by providing long-lived software support, but that does come at the cost of reduced features. That, however, is not a risk with the iPhone 12 or 13; when iOS 16 ships Tuesday, it won't asterisk away any of its advertised capabilities from those models, which is not the case with many older iPhones.

Greengart advised against going with a model older than two years, citing network compatibility and especially battery life.

"Newer phones are using more efficient processors, and they often have slightly larger batteries too," he said. He suggested not going with a model older than the iPhone 13, which also has the advantage of starting with 128 GB of storage instead of the more easily exhausted entry-level storage of 64 GB on the iPhone 12.

The iPhone 14 lineup, meanwhile, does take away one feature that's already upsetting some Apple users with multiple stamps on their passports: a SIM card slot.

Rob Pegoraro is a tech writer based out of Washington, D.C.

US in a recession, most say in poll; definition is unclear

Terry Collins
USA TODAY

Many Americans may not be able to define what a 'recession' exactly means, but they think they know one when it hits the U.S. economy and they believe a recession can boost their chances of getting a house.

About 76% of Americans recently polled believe the U.S. is in a recession, according to a study by Cinch Home Services, which also found that nearly half of them think that they would "more likely" buy a home in the event of a recession.

"That actually even surprised me," said Maddie Weirman, a project manager at Fractl, a research firm that helped with Cinch's study, told USA TODAY. "I think the conversation about a recession is becoming more frequent and you hear the word so often, you may begin to think there is an actual recession."

The study also said those polled believed that the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic (40%), high gas prices (36%) and the job market (35%) are the top three reasons for the state of the U.S. economy.

Cinch, a Boca Raton, Florida-based company that provides home warranty services, conducted its nationwide survey of 1,000 Americans between Aug. 9-11.

What is a recession?

A recession is generally defined as when the Gross Domestic Product declines for two straight quarters (roughly a six-month period).

Cinch's Weirman thinks there may be confusion over the term.

She said 63% of Americans participating in the survey could not identify the correct definition of a recession.

According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, a recession is "a widespread contraction in the economy that lasts more than a few months, with each of the three criteria – depth, diffusion and duration – being met to some degree."

Weirman said there may also be fur-

ther confusion as the top U.S. home-builder and realtor trade groups say the housing industry is in a recession.

"That only adds to the speculation," Weirman said. The survey comes as recession fears continue to grow, despite top economists saying the U.S. is not in a recession as employers added 315,000 jobs in August amid rising interest rates and a stumbling economy.

Uncertainty over who declares a recession

Cinch's survey also reveals that many Americans are unsure about who determines when a recession is happening.

More than a third polled did correctly say that the National Bureau of Economic Research is recognized as the official arbiter of when recessions end and begin. But 10% also thought that the United Nations and President Joe Biden determined when the U.S. is in a recession. Seven percent thought the media determined the recession, and 5% thought House Speaker Nancy Pelosi made the decision.

Should you buy a home during a recession?

Americans are split on whether they will buy a home during a recession, Cinch's study revealed. Weirman said it appears those surveyed are noticing what experts are saying about the housing industry. For example, the National Association of Home Builders believes the U.S. housing market is in a recession, citing eight straight months of declining homeowner sentiment.

Meanwhile the National Association of Realtors informally, but similarly, defines a housing recession when home sales drop for six straight months. The falling list prices may be why 44% of Americans surveyed said they would be more likely to purchase a home if the U.S. entered a recession, Weirman said.

But that might be the case as the study points out there's still a housing shortage in the U.S. Some experts say there's a housing shortfall somewhere between 1 to 4 million units.



Classic or modern, but always iconic.

Find your favorite products from our collection and never go out of style.
Shop at shop.usatoday.com



SPORTS

USA TODAY | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2022 | SECTION C

Falling into football: From the NFL to college campuses

- First-time coaches on 'crash course.' Page 3C
- Week 1 NFL & Week 2 college preview. Page 7C

Latest news, results, opinion 24/7 at sports.usatoday.com

Dabo Swinney gets extension that makes him second-highest-paid college coach at \$11.5M.



The Chargers, led by Justin Herbert, were 9-8 in 2021 and aim to make the playoffs for the first time since the 2018 season. JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/USA TODAY SPORTS

Fall dreaming encouraged

If history any indicator, NFL's postseason field will feature some non-2021 entrants

Nate Davis USA TODAY

So ... you're sayin' there's a chance?

The NFL playoff field turns over significantly on an annual basis – at least four different teams joining the bracket in each season since 1990. But the churn goes deeper than that while providing more than a glimmer of hope for success-starved fan bases.

Consider:

- In 17 of the past 19 seasons, at least one team has won its division after finishing in last place the previous year.

- In 18 of the past 19 seasons, at least *two* teams have been crowned division winners after failing to qualify for postseason the previous year.

- With the exception of the nine-game 1982 strike season, when divisional play was suspended, at least one team has won a division title after failing to qualify for the postseason the previous year in every season dating to 1977.

- Since the NFL expanded to a 14-team playoff field in 2020, seven new teams have reached the field in both seasons.

So if you support a downtrodden squad heading into the 2022 season, now is the time for optimism. Here's Nate Davis' ranking, from least likely to most, of 2021 non-playoff qualifiers and their chances to crack the postseason. (Projected record noted in parentheses, asterisks signaling predicted playoff berth):

18. Houston Texans (3-14)

They're almost certainly headed in a better direction ... after ricocheting off rock bottom in the aftermath of the Deshaun Watson saga. That doesn't mean they'll reap many results in the win column even if the roster is incrementally improving.

17. Atlanta Falcons (2-15)

Heading into his second season, Arthur Smith seems to be that rare coach who can routinely maximize his talent and regularly steal games from seemingly superior opponents, as often happened in 2021. But though it's unwise to sleep on these Falcons, it does appear they will be overmatched on both sides of the ball virtually every Sunday for the foreseeable future.

16. Chicago Bears (4-13)

Rookie head coach Matt Eberflus takes the reins with a sterling reputation as a motivator yet a coach players go to the mat for. Perhaps, like Smith, he'll be able to squeeze more out of a roster that doesn't appear to have much juice. Playing in what's probably the NFC's least competitive division won't hurt ... especially if Eberflus and his staff can find ways to develop second-year QB Justin Fields even though it appeared the organization didn't invest much on the offensive side of the ball this offseason.

14a. New York Jets (5-12) and

14b. New York Giants (5-12)

Not very big apples. Remarkably, the NYJ and NYG are both 22-59 since the start of the 2017 season – tying for the worst record in the NFL over the past five seasons while also combining for seven last-place divisional finishes during that span. Coming off a widely hailed 2022 draft, the Jets appear to have the more talented roster but need second-year QB Zach Wilson to take a significant step once his surgically repaired

See DREAMING, Page 2C

Texas' Sarkisian tries to take down a big mentor



Cedric Golden
Austin American-Statesmen
USA TODAY Network

AUSTIN, Texas – Steve Sarkisian is preaching total buy-in as the countdown to Alabama continues.

Conventional wisdom says the top-ranked Crimson Tide will roll over the Longhorns with little to no resistance, but Texas isn't buying into that narrative.

What we hear from Sark and his players is belief, a confidence that wasn't al-

ways there in his first season.

Sarkisian believes he has the blueprint to success, one born from an experience at a previous stop.

There are similarities between the challenge Sarkisian faces this week against Nick Saban, his former boss, and the time he faced another former college boss, Southern Cal's Pete Carroll, in his first head coaching stop.

No one expected Sarkisian to lead his first team – the 2009 Washington Huskies – to finish anywhere close to the powerful Trojans, especially since Sark had just taken over a program coming off a disastrous 0-12 season.

"It was a very similar scenario in that

I had worked for Pete for seven years and had a great deal of respect for what he did and what we were able to do in our time there," Sarkisian said on Monday.

Southern Cal was a machine for a decade, winning consecutive national championships in 2003 and 2004. The Vince Young-led Texas Longhorns thwarted a Trojans threepeat bid, but Carroll's program was an unquestioned blue blood, as evidenced by a 34-game winning streak, three Heisman Trophy winners – Reggie Bush's 2005 award was later vacated due to NCAA rules vi-



Alabama's Nick Saban faces former offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian.

2017 GETTY IMAGES PHOTO BY TOM PENNINGTON

See GOLDEN, Page 2C

Dreaming

Continued from Page 1C

knee allows him to step back onto the field. Playing in the weaker NFC might give the Giants a better shot at snagging a playoff berth, but they'll need often-injured RB Saquon Barkley to revert to Pro Bowl form while hoping first-year coach Brian Daboll can get lame-duck QB Daniel Jones to perform like the franchise player he was supposed to be.

13. Cleveland Browns (6-11)

The resolution of Watson's disciplinary case provides a measure of clarity – especially since the five games tacked onto his original suspension come against the Ravens, Bengals, Dolphins, Bills and Buccaneers. There are too many talented players here to dismiss the Browns out of hand ... but it's going to take a Herculean effort to remain relevant by the time Watson is scheduled to return in Week 13.

12. Seattle Seahawks (5-12)

It's a given a Pete Carroll-coached team will play hard and with an edge. And this offense *could* score points in clusters given its playmakers. But a leadership void created by the departures of QB Russell Wilson and MLB Bobby Wagner and a major question about how much production this team will get from Wilson's replacement suggest Seattle will miss the playoffs in successive seasons for the first time since 2008-09.

11. Jacksonville Jaguars (6-11)

Their last two drafts should prove bountiful, and they continue to add established veterans in free agency ... even if they're overpaying to lure them to Duval County. But most important, the vibe is much better post-Urban Meyer, and highly regarded QB Trevor Lawrence should begin fulfilling his vast potential in collaboration with a Super Bowl-caliber coach in Doug Pederson. And it's not like the Jags should lose sight of the AFC South lead by Hallowe'en, as has happened the past two seasons, which both featured 1-6 starts.

10. Denver Broncos (8-9)

A bit confounding that an organization breaking in a new coaching staff while integrating Wilson has opted against meaningful preseason snaps. Time will tell if that's the right approach but, regardless, pretty hard to envision the Broncos overtaking the other three thoroughbreds in the AFC West ... and they might even need two of those

teams to break down in order to play into the middle of January.

9. Carolina Panthers (7-10)

Newly anointed QB1 Baker Mayfield has presented this summer as the mature, steady voice that he didn't often manage to be in Cleveland. If he can also stabilize matters under center – and have RB Christian McCaffrey lined up next to or behind him most weeks – then this team has a legitimate shot to stick around and maybe even save coach Matt Rhule's job.

8. Washington Commanders (7-10)

Perhaps their best player, DE Chase Young, is out for at least the first month of the regular season as his recovery from ACL reconstruction continues. Inarguably their most important player, QB Carson Wentz, has run the gamut by flashing first-round form this summer ... and alternately serving reminders of why he's on his third team in three years. It could all come together for a team that won the NFC East, where bizarre is the norm, in 2020 (despite a 7-9 record), but it could just as easily devolve into disaster.

7. Detroit Lions (8-9)

If you hadn't started falling for them after they pulled themselves up by the bootstraps despite failing to win any of their first 11 games last season, then maybe you've started crushing on Dan Campbell's crew after seeing a bit of grit during "Hard Knocks." Are they ready to get their first playoff victory in 31 years? Probably not. But they could at least get their first crack at it since 2016.

6. Minnesota Vikings (8-9)

They won a playoff game following the 2019 campaign but have otherwise been decidedly average – which is to say underachieving – during QB Kirk Cousins' four-year hitch. He probably doesn't get enough credit for his personal showing during that time, but he and new head coach Kevin O'Connell must find a way to turn potential into broader results. A pass rush expected to be anchored by edge rushers Danielle Hunter and Za'Darius Smith could be an apt microcosm of Minnesota's boom-or-bust potential.

5. Miami Dolphins (9-8)

Perhaps the AFC's version of the Vikes, they're hoping to graduate from the playoff fringes to the playoff field under new on-field management. First-year coach Mike McDaniel and his Tua Tagovailoa-Tyreek Hill connection better be ready given a September gantlet



The Ravens and quarterback Lamar Jackson hope good health and returning players lead them back to the playoffs. TOMMY GILLIGAN/USA TODAY SPORTS

that includes the Patriots, Ravens, Bills and Bengals.

*4. Indianapolis Colts (9-8)

Frank Reich is heading into his fifth season with his fifth different starting quarterback, Matt Ryan this year. The former MVP seems to be galvanizing a locker room that predecessor Wentz failed to rally last year. "Matt Ryan has been everything we hoped and dream for. I know how happy the whole organization is, having his leadership going into the season," owner Jim Irsay said recently. "We're really, really excited. I think we have a reason to be." The additions of DE Yannick Ngakoue and 2019 Defensive Player of the Year Stephon Gilmore don't hurt, either, nor does competing in what will probably be the league's poorest division.

*3. New Orleans Saints (9-8)

They have a chance to field the league's best defense, a top-five unit in 2021 that's added safeties Tyrann Mathieu and Marcus Maye to the back line. WR Michael Thomas is finally back but won't need to catch 100-plus balls with first-rounder Chris Olave and vet Jarvis Landry now in the mix. If QB Jameis Winston can do what he did for seven games in 2021 – limit turnovers while ef-

ficiently distributing the ball – the Saints could reclaim the NFC South throne from Tampa Bay.

*2. Baltimore Ravens (11-6)

They should get a slew of stars back from injury even if not all of them are ready for Week 1. Former MVP Lamar Jackson, who was among the walking wounded in 2021, will either be playing for a megacontract or attempting to justify one – and could get substantial help from WR Rashod Bateman and rookie TE Isaiah Likely. And a team that was snakebit in 2021 is already seeing the luck pendulum reversing itself. Baltimore was initially scheduled to face Watson in his Browns debut in Week 7 but will instead draw him for his fraught home debut in Cleveland ... in Week 15.

*1. Los Angeles Chargers (11-6)

One to 53, easy to argue they have the best roster in a loaded AFC West. No quarterback has had a more prolific two-year opening than Justin Herbert, whose style of play reminds one of a young Aaron Rodgers. If Herbert can protect the ball just a bit better – and coach Brandon Staley can tighten up his defense and game management – the Bolts have the goods to end Kansas City's divisional reign.

Golden

Continued from Page 1C

olations – along with 25 first-team All-Americans and 14 first-round picks in the NFL draft.

After Washington fired coach Tyrone Willingham, who had gone 11-37 over four seasons, the decision to hire Carroll's trusted assistant was met with skepticism, according to a 2011 Bleacher Report story.

"When I watched his first press conference, he seemed a little goofy," Washington fullback Paul Homer said in the story. "I thought to myself: 'What are we doing?' But in the first team meeting, he said we were no longer playing like garbage. He was full of positive energy and excitement. They said if we bought in, they would take us to the very top. That got everybody fired up."

The Huskies opened the 2009 season with a 31-23 loss at No. 11 LSU despite dominating in yardage 478-321. After evening up their record with a 19-point home win over Idaho – breaking a 15-game losing streak dating back to the end of the 2007 season – they were a double-digit underdog at home against the Trojans, who had committed football homicide with a 56-0 trouncing in their 2008 meeting in Los Angeles.

It seemed like more of the same when the Trojans took a 10-0 lead behind running back Joe McKnight, who rushed for 111 yards on USC's first two drives alone.

"We didn't stop the run for anything," Sarkisian said, "but our guys just kind of hung in there. They fought and they scratched and they clawed, and next thing you know, it's a tie game in the fourth quarter and you've got a chance."

That came after Huskies quarterback Jake Locker displayed the clutch gene with three third-down conversions in the final three minutes, setting up Eric Folk's game-winning field goal with two seconds remaining.

The 16-13 win drew raves nationwide,



Steve Sarkisian owns a .553 winning percentage in nine seasons as a college head coach but is 6-7 at Texas. SCOTT WACHTER/USA TODAY SPORTS

though many in the country didn't know we were witnessing the end of the Carroll era at USC, as scandal would soon grab the headlines.

While Texas' Mack Brown and Saban would square off for a BCS title at the Rose Bowl to conclude the season, the Huskies finished 5-7, but the match was lit under Sarkisian. Coincidentally, his first Texas team also finished 5-7 though it was far more disappointing with late blown leads and a humiliating home loss to Kansas. Add to that, Texas was coming off a 7-3 season – its fourth straight winning campaign – under Tom Herman.

That said, Sark is preaching some of the same lessons of accountability, toughness and togetherness in Austin that he stressed to his players in Seattle. His current crew isn't expected to beat the best team in the country – Bama is favored by 20 or so points in most circles after its opening 55-0 win over Utah

State – but it will be a great measuring stick in what the 'Horns might bring to the SEC table come conference play.

"Inevitably that (Washington) team at that time is very similar to this team at this time, buying into the idea that the work you put in throughout ultimately will carry over to game day," Sarkisian said. "A guy once told me culture a lot of times will have an opportunity to beat talent when the culture, the chemistry, is really strong."

"We've got to make sure our chemistry is right Saturday as well, that we play as a team and not just talented individuals."

Texas has a new quarterback in Quinn Ewers, 14 freshmen on the two-deep and an unproven offensive line, but running back Bijan Robinson is a first-round NFL draft pick to be and wideout Xavier Worthy could get there eventually as well. And then there's the defense attempting to regain its mojo

after last season's No. 100 national ranking.

Sarkisian had a front-row seat to two of the most dynastic runs in the modern game and took copious notes as an understudy. The awakening of a former national power doesn't happen overnight, a fact easily attested by Saban, who went 7-6 in his first season at Alabama, and Carroll, who went 6-6 in his USC debut. They combined to go 23-4 in their following seasons and each won a national title in Year 3. It remains to be seen if Sark is on a similar arc.

Now more than a decade later, the 2009 what-if-Colt-hadn't-gotten-hurt narrative continues to stick in the Longhorns' craw. But history suggests a blowout won't happen. According to Sports Betting Dime, the 'Horns have been a double-digit underdog twice over the last four years – 10 1/2 points against Oklahoma in 2019 and 14 1/2 in the 2019 Sugar Bowl against Georgia. They covered against the Sooners and beat the Dawgs outright. It also should be noted Texas was last a double-digit home dog in 2014 – Charlie Strong's first season – and lost 28-7 to Baylor.

As Alabama looms, Sarkisian has real belief that his core leadership will give a good accounting for Texas football against long odds, perhaps even pull off the impossible if those 11 a.m. CT stars align.

"As youthful as we are at some spots, I think we've got some really key veteran players that understand it and that have really bought into the messaging from us," Sarkisian said. "One of the components to that as a leader is making sure that permeates throughout our locker room and making sure the younger players understand that too."

In Year 2, Sark has built the kind of camaraderie that can lead to Texas getting a passing grade by season's end, but not before the 'Horns face the mother of all chemistry tests.

The student will have a load of confidence, but it's Alabama's time. The teacher wins big this time.

NFL EXCLUSIVE Q&A

5 first-time head coaches reflect on 'crash course'

Mike Jones
USA TODAY

When the 2022 NFL regular season kicks off this weekend, five men will make their head coaching debuts.

In Chicago, 52-year-old Matt Eberflus leads the way after 13 NFL seasons as a defensive assistant (serving most recently as the Indianapolis Colts defensive coordinator from 2018-21).

In Denver, 42-year-old Nathaniel Hackett steps into the spotlight after 13 NFL seasons that included offensive coordinator stints with Tampa Bay, Buffalo, Jacksonville and, most recently, Green Bay.

Miami's Mike McDaniel, 39, previously served as offensive coordinator of the San Francisco 49ers. The former Denver Broncos ball boy now enters his 16th NFL season.

At 37, Minnesota's Kevin O'Connell was the youngest head coach hired this offseason. The former Patriots, Lions, Jets, Dolphins and Chargers backup quarterback and seven-year coaching veteran most recently served as the Los Angeles Rams offensive coordinator.

Meanwhile, New York Giants coach Brian Daboll, 47, toiled in the assistant ranks for 21 seasons and now hopes to carry over the success he experienced as an offensive coordinator in Buffalo from 2018-21.

Despite their extensive resumes, all five rookie head coaches are learning that a lot changes after making the jump from coordinator to leading man.

"It's definitely a crash course," Hackett said last week with a laugh.

USA TODAY Sports caught up with all five first-time head coaches for a round-table discussion about the lessons gained from their first training camps and preseasons and how they hope to draw on those experiences as they approach their Week 1 debuts and the looming season as a whole. It has been lightly edited for clarity.

What was the biggest lesson that you will take away from your first training camp and preseas?

Brian Daboll: "The biggest lessons that I've learned up to this point is when you're a coordinator, you're focused on call sheets and fundamentals and plays, and that's where your head has to be. But as a head coach, what I've come to learn is my door is always open and the amount of people that come into my office every day – it's a lot. You're in the middle of doing stuff and there's two or three visitors every half-hour, and instead of being overwhelmed, I've learned to say, 'You know what, I remember when I had to go talk to the head coach and whatever was on my mind was the most important thing in the world, because to go into the head coach's office, you don't want to waste his time.' But now, being the head coach, I see it might be the 700th on your list, but the ability to be a really good listener is probably the biggest lesson that I've learned up until this point."

Nathaniel Hackett: "I would say one of the bigger things that I've had to adjust to is the amount of media. There's so many (obligations). You're always (used to) walking off the field to watch tape: football, football, football. And I used to do media once a week and it was about 10 minutes, but now, it's way more extensive, which means you have to be even better with your time when you also have to do football. The other thing is, you're not just dealing with the 25 offensive players. Now, you have to support the entire team, put together a team meeting, which then leads me into negotiating my voice. The beginning of training camp, I really lost my voice. I always kind of lose my voice, especially when doing installs, but now it was watching tape, doing an install, doing a team meeting, and doing media. How you budget your time in general – and thank God I'm already organizational. I take a lot of pride in that and always have, but now so many more factors have been put in with the team, with the media, with everything."

"And finally, another one is there are just so many decisions to be made in an organization. Before, you were just dealing with an offensive play but now you're dealing with everything from uniforms, to towels and clothing and planes and buses and all those little intricate things that people want to know what your opinion is because they want to do it the right way. I've always had a clear and concise vision, but now you're having to explain it and I think it's just



Brian Daboll says being a good listener is a big lesson he's learned.

VINCENT CARCHIETTA/USA TODAY SPORTS



Mike McDaniel on canceling joint practices: "It's about just doing the best thing for the team with the given circumstances." JASEN VINLOVE/USA TODAY SPORTS



Matt Eberflus on concentrating on all aspects of the team: "We worked together hand-in-hand as a coaching staff." JOE NICHOLSON/USA TODAY SPORTS

the magnitude, especially in the first year, because you want everything to be right, but you know not everything will be right, right out of the gate, but you want to try to put your stamp on as many different things so I have no excuse to say something bothers me. If I haven't said anything, then I can't be upset about it. So, I think the amount of people you deal with now has just quadrupled."

Kevin O'Connell: "I think the biggest lesson – and I was really lucky to get some advice from some guys who had gone through this recently – was to take the time in the summer and spring to really plan out how you envision building your team and to systematically build it. I actually broke up training camp into a five-part process ... But really, it was the time put in ahead that allowed me to feel comfortable diving in and being a major part of installing our offense, teaching our offense, being around the defense when I can, special teams so that ultimately, guys – all 53 of the guys on our football team and the 90-man roster that was here with us in camp – felt like I was completely invested in every body."

Matt Eberflus: "I would just say that laying down a foundation of how we want to do our business, how we want to be in meetings, what we want to accomplish in walk-throughs, what we want to do on the practice fields and actually how we practice and really as a whole football team. Obviously, I've been a defensive coordinator for a long time and have always done that with the defensive side of the ball, but now having done it with the entire football team, that was probably the biggest, most important takeaway that I had of working with the offensive staff of how we go about every drill, how we go about finishing every rep in practice and what that means for every position – O-line, receivers, tight ends, runners, all that. So, I think for me, that was the biggest takeaway from all this and it was great because we worked together hand-in-hand as a coaching staff and I thought guys really did a nice job of taking steps forward every week of training camp."

Mike McDaniel: "The biggest lesson was not as much of a surprise as much as exactly what I was expecting, which is the number of people having to orchestrate a symphony for things to go right. So bringing mindfulness and a deliberate presence to each day as a prerequisite, but for everything to go the way you want it to, it's a lot of people with concerted effort attacking each day and having to be successful for the team to have ultimate success."

What was the most unexpected curveball or twist that required flexibility, and how did you handle it?

McDaniel: "I've never been a part of an NFL practice that was canceled in my career. Coming to work (on Aug. 25), getting ready for a team meeting and getting news that there were seven players that had a stomach bug that was clearly contagious, but didn't know the root – that number growing to something in the 20s and having to make the decision that it's not in the best interest of the Miami Dolphins nor the joint practice partakers, the Philadelphia Eagles, for us to push through. I never would have thought we would have lost one of those valuable practices, but in the moment, I had to make the decision that was best for the team with the given circumstances. ... I learned that the phrase 'Expect the unexpected' lives

that really helped me in this process, having been in Green Bay. So, it's just that there's more. That's basically the biggest curveball. ... So, right now I'm hitting the curveball pretty good, but there are just a lot more curveballs."

Any additional lessons or points of emphasis that you'll draw upon this season, or experiences from this first go-round that will stick with you?

Eberflus: "I think that communication is something everybody always needs to work on, and everyone really needs to work on the listening part of it. You really have to do a good job of listening to your staff and communicating with that. I enjoy doing that and it's something that always needs to be worked on because you can never be good enough at that."

Daboll: "The other thing (that will stick with me) is, I'm a pretty empathetic person as is, but sitting in this seat for the first time and having to tell this player when you've been through this trying couple of days of releasing a person who's given everything they have ... I've always been the third or fourth or fifth person to talk to them when they're released, but now, that's a crappy part of the job, I would say."

Hackett: "My dad always used to tell me, 'Don't judge any head coach until you've sat in that chair,' and I never judged any head coach and I'm glad that I didn't because it's a lot different being in this chair because there are a lot more things that come to your attention. I'm thinking back in my career and remember wondering, now it makes sense why those people reacted the way they did because now I know there was always something else going on."

McDaniel: "I think one of the things that I'm not sure how often it happens, but I've heard stories of people taking the responsibility and owning it, but also putting themselves in a position where they're not performing at their best because they feel as though they have to do too much. I think part of the formula that I kind of theorized before I got started with this, but it was super evident that I myself will do nothing even close to alone. It takes motivating the coaches who have to then motivate the players and not overdoing something to the point that my contribution to the team is hurt because I'm strung out and pressing. It's understanding that I have a big role, but it's just that – a role – and do rely on all the people that are trying to accomplish the very same thing that I am."

Daboll: "Curveballs – seems like there's a curveball every day and you don't know what it's going to be. Or maybe you're wanting a curveball but the next day is a knuckleball – from a player got sick to a player got hurt, to someone complaining about something. There's no manual for this and I think I've tried to be myself and be a good listener and be a good leader. Don't react too quickly with anything that comes across your desk. Try to sit back and have good communication with everybody, whether it's (GM) Joe (Schoen) or members of your coaching staff. You have to trust the people around you to do their job. Again, we have yet to play a game, so whether you want to call it the honeymoon stage or not, but every day there's something."

Eberflus: "We set our training camp schedule and got through all that then our preseason schedule came in with the games and we actually had our second one being a Thursday game – a road trip out to Seattle – and that really required some flexibility. But I think going forward, that will have really helped us with our Thursday game during the season, because obviously, we played on Saturday and had the day off, but that short week to prepare our guys for that game."

Hackett: "I don't necessarily know that I have had a curveball yet. I think there's been a lot of things that have come up that I haven't had to address in the past. I was very lucky being in Green Bay because any time anything came up, Matt (LaFleur) was always asking my opinion or letting me be privileged enough to hear what was going on, so



Hackett

and breathes, that you're not always going to know what's going to come at you, what the key is, set direction and really make sure that – really the idea that something is good or bad is totally irrelevant. It's about just doing the best thing for the team with the given circumstances and deciding to cancel practice, although that goes against everything a coach ever thinks or feels that can be the best thing for a team, can be the best decision you make."

O'Connell: "Obviously, the one that comes to mind was a lot of what I planned training camp around was our quarterback and when he would possibly play in preseason games and when we would be able to get our full group and 1's vs. 1's, and we were well on our way to doing that, and then (Kirk Cousins) did get COVID early on in camp, leading into that first preseason game. You can do all the planning you want and you can have contingency plans, but that was one where I found myself adjusting things and altering a couple things here and there in a way that I never thought I would, but I was doing it in the best interest of our team and Kirk and now I'm sitting here today on Sept. 1st saying to myself, 'I feel like we're able to handle that, kind of have some agility when we need it to ultimately put our players in the best possible position to feel good going into Sept. 11th.'

Daboll: "Curveballs – seems like there's a curveball every day and you don't know what it's going to be. Or maybe you're wanting a curveball but the next day is a knuckleball – from a player got sick to a player got hurt, to someone complaining about something. There's no manual for this and I think I've tried to be myself and be a good listener and be a good leader. Don't react too quickly with anything that comes across your desk. Try to sit back and have good communication with everybody, whether it's (GM) Joe (Schoen) or members of your coaching staff. You have to trust the people around you to do their job. Again, we have yet to play a game, so whether you want to call it the honeymoon stage or not, but every day there's something."

McDaniel: "I've never been a part of an NFL practice that was canceled in my career. Coming to work (on Aug. 25), getting ready for a team meeting and getting news that there were seven players that had a stomach bug that was clearly contagious, but didn't know the root – that number growing to something in the 20s and having to make the decision that it's not in the best interest of the Miami Dolphins nor the joint practice partakers, the Philadelphia Eagles, for us to push through. I never would have thought we would have lost one of those valuable practices, but in the moment, I had to make the decision that was best for the team with the given circumstances. ... I learned that the phrase 'Expect the unexpected' lives

"And finally, another one is there are just so many decisions to be made in an organization. Before, you were just dealing with an offensive play but now you're dealing with everything from uniforms, to towels and clothing and planes and buses and all those little intricate things that people want to know what your opinion is because they want to do it the right way. I've always had a clear and concise vision, but now you're having to explain it and I think it's just

'I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING'

Jori Epstein
USA TODAY

ARLINGTON, Texas – In a sprawling outdoor venue nestled between the Dallas Cowboys' AT&T Stadium and the Texas Rangers' Globe Life Field, Dak Prescott occupied the farthest left chair on stage.

Beside the Cowboys quarterback sat two city police chiefs, a local school district superintendent, a mental health specialist, and two high school students of color. Prescott's town hall was underway. The goal: build trust between law enforcement and youth, humanizing members of each community. Prescott urged panelists and the student audience alike to speak honestly.

"How do y'all handle situations with people who are African Americans when they're not being obedient, when they're not understanding the situation, or when they're not cooperating?" asked one teenage male of color during the Q&A portion. "Because it seems like y'all handle situations differently from Caucasians to African Americans."

Asked a female student: "Do you think brutality is based off poverty?"

Attendees said they valued the chance to ask these questions in a safe and open-minded forum. They also appreciated Prescott, who propelled roughly 200 students of color to spend a sunny Wednesday evening in May with local law enforcement.

"People in their mind today were like, 'Oh, we're going to see Dak,'" Dallas Carter High senior Aliya Larzeia said. "But at the same time, we're going to be able to discuss our problems and how we feel."

Prescott began his mission to build trust between law enforcement and communities of color after George Floyd was murdered by a Minnesota police officer in May 2020. The following week, Prescott pledged \$1 million to "improve our police training and address systemic racism through education and advocacy in our country."

"I couldn't silence my inner voice anymore," he told USA TODAY Sports. "Eventually I said, 'I've got to do something.' I've got to do something bigger than asking questions ... and I hope you all hold me accountable to it."

In a 2021 USA TODAY/Ipsos poll, 77% of Black Americans said police don't treat all Americans equally (54% of white respondents agreed). While Blacks make up 12.9% of the Texas population, they accounted for 16.2% of 2021 traffic stops in the state and 32.5% of physical force incidents, according to a racial profiling data analysis conducted within the Texas A&M University system. The research authors recommended further analysis since "dynamics of the situations are not included in the data."

Locally, two white officers have been convicted of murdering unarmed Black males in the last five years. Dallas-based civil rights attorney David Henderson characterizes local Black sentiment not as angry or hostile.

"We're scared of the police," Henderson told USA TODAY Sports, "even when we need to call them for help."

Through town halls and training, Prescott hopes to shift that dynamic.

After two years of research, several local grass-roots events, and three sessions testing training curricula with officers and educators, Prescott's Faith Fight Finish Foundation (FFF) has signed a deal with national public safety policy and training platform Lexipol, both Prescott and Lexipol confirmed to USA TODAY Sports. Lexipol will transform a Prescott-curated law enforcement curriculum into virtual training that, with the quarterback's funding, will be nationally available and

Dak Prescott is helping alter police training



Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott, Fort Worth Police Chief Neil Noakes, Dallas police sergeant Anthony Andujar and ninth-grader Antonella Aguilera joined a May 25 panel Prescott organized to build trust between law enforcement and youth. PHOTOS FROM FAITH FIGHT FINISH FOUNDATION

free. The course is scheduled to be filmed in mid-September and available by the first quarter of 2023. Lexipol has a presence in all 50 states and will market the course to its more than 10,000 customers.

"A continuous education and a way to weed out those who don't truly have it in their heart to serve their communities," Prescott said of his goal. "I've got to put all these police officers and I've got to put the community in uncomfortable positions for us to grow and create this empathy so we can educate each other that we are the same."

Prescott's determination to build trust has surprised local officers and community members. Jaime Castro, the Dallas Police Association third vice president and Latino community liaison, recalled his initial impression after a chance encounter turned into a more than hour-long discussion.

"I was like, 'Dak, I'm going to be honest: We've never had anyone your status ever come to us and say, 'What can I do to help?'" said Castro, who now serves on Prescott's advisory committee. "This is for real. He really does care about what we're talking about."

Can trust be rebuilt?

Prescott was emotional in a four-page Instagram post on June 3, 2020.

"I have the utmost respect for those of you with a passion for protecting and serving our communities," he wrote in part in his statement. "(But) how can you claim to uphold the law when those within your own ranks don't abide by it? You need to hold your own accountable!"

"As long as cops continue to profile blacks as a threat, cops will continue to be perceived as untrustworthy," he wrote later in the post. "I stand to help our streets and communities trust one another!"

Prescott had decided his goal. The next question: How?

"We first educated ourselves about the differences in law enforcement (training requirements)," Prescott said. "And that was a mind blower to me. That was almost a step back like, 'Man, this may be tough.'"

Prescott mulled systemic concerns also, and a conversation with his uncle resonated. He recalled his uncle saying: "We should just get rid of the word 'racism.'"

"Say it's hate," Prescott said. "Because at this point, it's learned ... so my point is I need to teach to unlearn. And the only way to unlearn is to educate."

Research led Prescott and FFF executive director Shannon Mabrey Rotenberg to law enforcement curriculum director John Shanks, whose CYCLE (Connecting Youth and Community Law Enforcement) curriculum includes courses on de-escalation, communication



Dak Prescott hosted roughly 200 Dallas area high school students of color for a town hall May 25 with law enforcement.

tion, implicit bias and adolescent brain development.

After discovering how inconsistent officer mental wellness support was – Castro told Prescott he had not interacted with a mental health professional since entering service in 1999 – Prescott also commissioned the development of two additional modules: on community service, and on officer mental health and wellness.

"When I realized what our police officers are doing, I'm like, man – that's scary," Prescott said. "They're not given a chance to do their job at the healthiest position because it all starts with your mental health."

Tracie Keesee, the Center for Policing Equity co-founder and former NYPD deputy commissioner for equity and inclusion, has not encountered Prescott or CYCLE's curriculum but spoke to USA TODAY Sports generally about Prescott's goals.

"Kudos," she said of the officer wellness addition. "Because we know for a fact that officers are also carrying trauma. This is not new but it's also something that needs to be lifted up, needs to be acknowledged, and needs to be invested in. Because they're bringing that to work with them."

A 'night and day' difference in training

Prescott's curriculum has attracted buy-in from local departments.

Although none has mandated it, Dallas, Fort Worth and Arlington police departments each sent officers first to training in late 2021 and then to instructor training in June. Castro says the curriculum's focus on understanding civilians is "night and day" different from the "warrior mentality" training he received when initially joining the Dallas Police Department in 1999.

Kim Vickers, who retired Aug. 31 as executive director of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE), said the adolescent brain development coursework "mesmerized him."

conversation, to go in and help frame how you do it."

In North Texas, that conversation has begun.

'I'd be damned if I stop'

Faith Fight Finish community activities have included an officer-student athlete barbecue dinner; local high school visits by a 35-year-old Black police officer and Breaking Barriers United founder Ryan Tillman; and a "Backpack and Hoodies" event in which students explained to officers why the garments were comfortable and then heard from officers why they generated suspicion. The foundation has also coordinated three town halls between officers and teens of color.

Conversations have broached prior experiences in police-civilian interactions – family members' distrust, friends' stigmas, officers' traumatic calls – as well as shared affinities for rapper J. Cole and the Cowboys.

"The best way to create trust is to give input on both sides and allow them to get their problems out, allow them to say the things they feel most misconstrued about," Prescott said. "To me, it was, make (law enforcement) better and then the people will understand that, 'This is for us.'"

Prescott dismisses the notion that he's siding with officers in programming, instead preferring to facilitate dialogue.

"The person in the middle trying to bring everybody together," said Aliya Larzeia.

"He's actually trying to get both viewpoints," added her sister Adia Larzeia, a sophomore at Prairie View A&M. "He's not like, 'Oh, you have to listen to the law enforcement.' As a youth, you still have a voice and opinion. You're still entitled to hear what we have to say."

Fort Worth Police Chief Neil Noakes says Prescott's pitch on youth involvement was clear: "They have to be at the table or we go nowhere."

Prescott, Rotenberg and the foundation hope conversations advance as officers receive more access to relational training and community-building events.

Faith Fight Finish hasn't yet invested \$1 million, and Prescott views his 2020 pledge as only an "initial" give.

"When I hit the million, at this point, that's just checking off what we pledged, but I'd be damned if I stop," Prescott said. "I'm blessed enough that I'll have more money at that time than I have right now to be able to put more money into it. I'll have more connections and more people involved."

"Funding will never be the issue."

Prescott believes he's seeing micro-level impacts, be it individual officers learning from students or high-risk students finding mentors among officers.

"I've never left a town hall, never left an event without feeling like we've changed somebody's mindset, perspective and made the officers better," he said. "Let's figure out a way for us to answer these questions together."

AUCTION SHOWCASE

For advertising information: 1.800.397.0070 www.russelljohns.com/usat



SULLIVAN CO. TAX FORECLOSURE AUCTION

300+ NY Properties

September 21 & 22 @ 9:30AM

ONLINE ONLY AUCTION @ NYSauctions.com

800-243-0061 | AAR, Inc. & HAR, Inc.

MAKE SURE YOUR
AUCTION PROFESSIONAL
IS A MEMBER



Auctioneer

Find An Auctioneer at Auctioneers.org

FOR THE RECORD

All times ET

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	63	54	.606	—
Tampa Bay	77	58	.570	5
Toronto	76	60	.559	6 1/2
Baltimore	72	65	.526	11
Boston	67	71	.486	16 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	70	65	.519	—
Chicago	69	68	.504	2
Minnesota	68	67	.504	2
Kansas City	56	82	.406	15 1/2
Detroit	52	85	.380	19

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	88	49	.642	—
Seattle	77	60	.562	11
Los Angeles	60	77	.438	28
Texas	59	77	.434	28 1/2
Oakland	50	87	.365	38

Wednesday's Games

Atlanta 7, Oakland 3

N.Y. Yankees 5, Minnesota 4, 12 innings, 1st game

Chicago White Sox 9, Seattle 6

Detroit 5, L.A. Angels 4

Tampa Bay 1, Boston 0

Toronto 4, Baltimore 1

N.Y. Yankees 7, Minnesota 1, 2nd game

Kansas City 2, Cleveland 1

Houston 4, Texas 3, 10 innings

Thursday's Games

Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees

Chicago White Sox at Oakland

Friday's Games

Boston (Bello 1-4) at Baltimore (Voth 4-2), 7:05 p.m.

Tampa Bay (Kluber 10-7) at N.Y. Yankees (Montas 5-11), 7:05 p.m.

Toronto (Stripling 7-4) at Texas (Dunning 3-8), 8:05 p.m.

Cleveland (Quantrill 11-5) at Minnesota (Bundy 8-6), 8:10 p.m.

Detroit (Wentz 0-1) at Kansas City (Heasley 3-7), 8:10 p.m.

L.A. Angels (Lorenzen 6-6) at Houston (McCullers Jr. 2-1), 8:10 p.m.

Atlanta (Morton 7-5) at Seattle (Ray 12-8), 9:40 p.m.

Chicago White Sox (Giolito 10-9) at Oakland (Kaprielian 3-9), 9:40 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees, 1:05 p.m.

Chicago White Sox at Oakland, 4:07 p.m.

Toronto at Texas, 7:05 p.m.

Detroit at Kansas City, 7:10 p.m.

Cleveland at Minnesota, 7:15 p.m.

L.A. Angels at Houston, 7:15 p.m.

Atlanta at Seattle, 9:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	87	51	.630	—
Atlanta	86	51	.628	1/2
Philadelphia	75	61	.551	11
Miami	55	80	.407	30 1/2
Washington	49	89	.355	38

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	81	57	.587	—
Milwaukee	72	65	.526	8 1/2
Chicago	57	80	.416	23 1/2
Cincinnati	55	80	.407	24 1/2
Pittsburgh	50	86	.368	30

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	94	42	.691	—
San Diego	76	62	.551	19
Arizona	65	71	.478	29
San Francisco	65	71	.478	29
Colorado	59	79	.428	36

Wednesday's Games

N.Y. Mets 5, Pittsburgh 1, 1st game

Colorado 8, Milwaukee 4

Atlanta 7, Oakland 3

L.A. Dodgers 7, San Francisco 3

Philadelphia 4, Miami 3

N.Y. Mets 10, Pittsburgh 0, 2nd game

Cincinnati 7, Chicago Cubs 1

St. Louis 6, Washington 5

San Diego 6, Arizona 3

Thursday's Games

Washington 11, St. Louis 6

Cincinnati 4, Chicago Cubs 3

Milwaukee 2, San Francisco 1, 1st game

Miami at Philadelphia

San Francisco 2, Milwaukee, 2nd game

Friday's Games

San Francisco (Rodon 12-7) at Chicago Cubs (Smly 5-8), 4:05 p.m.

St. Louis (Mikolas 11-10) at Pittsburgh (Contreras 4-4), 6:35 p.m.

N.Y. Mets (Peterson 7-3) at Miami (Cabrera 4-2), 6:40 p.m.

Washington (Corbin 6-17) at Philadelphia (Syndergaard 8-2), 7:05 p.m.

Arizona (Davies 2-4) at Colorado (Márquez 8-10), 8:40 p.m.

Atlanta (Morton 7-5) at Seattle (Ray 12-8), 9:40 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers (May 1-2) at San Diego (Manea 7-8), 9:40 p.m.

Saturday's Games

San Diego at Washington, 1 p.m.

Louisville at North Carolina, 7 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Kansas City at Gotham FC, 6 p.m.

Angel City at Houston, 7 p.m.

ODDS PROVIDED BY



Odds available as of print deadline

NCAAF			
Favorite	Spread	Friday	Underdog
UCF	5.5	61.5	220
Boise St	17.5	44.5	1100

Favorite	Spread	Friday	Underdog
UCF	5.5	61.5	220
Boise St	17.5	44.5	1100

Favorite	Spread	Friday	Underdog
UCF	5.5	61.5	220
Boise St	17.5	44.5	1100

Favorite	Spread	Friday	Underdog
UCF	5.5	61.5	220
Boise St	17.5	44.5	1100

Favorite	Spread	Friday	Underdog
UCF	5.5	61.5	220
Boise St	17.5	44.5	1100

Favorite	Spread	Friday	Underdog
UCF	5.5		

New twist to Power vs. Dixon

Marshall Pruett

RACER magazine | USA TODAY Network

The fight for the 2014 IndyCar Series championship was largely a duel between Team Penske teammates Will Power and Helio Castroneves, with the two trading the lead over the final rounds before Power took command with three races to go and beat the Brazilian by 62 points to the title.

Before Power's first championship, he spent years chasing and falling short of beating Chip Ganassi Racing's Dario Franchitti from 2009-11, and after the Scot's retirement, Power was never particularly close to overcoming CGR's Scott Dixon's ensuing title years in 2013, 2015, 2018 and 2020.

All that history has registered with Power, who leads the NTT IndyCar Series championship leading into Sunday's title-deciding race. At 42, Dixon – the six-time champion who was born in Power's native Australia and raised in New Zealand – has been the standard of excellence since Power arrived from the Champ Car series in 2008.

At 41, Power feels like he's been chasing Dixon the entire time he's been here, and for once, since Dixon wasn't particularly close in that 2014 title scrap, he's thankful to have a proper fight for the championship with teammate Josef Newgarden and Dixon tied for second, 20 points arrears.

"I think it's great that Scott and I are right at the front," Power told RACER. "It's showing that age really doesn't matter. I'm so excited to fight Dixon in the championship because it's never happened. I've always wanted to go up against him, and I'm actually really happy that I get to battle him. For real. I've always wanted that."

For his part, Dixon tilted his head, scrunched his brow, and admitted he wasn't exactly sure what Power was referring to.

"That's really cool that he feels that way, but man, I don't know," he said. "I always feel like I'm fighting with him for championships, so I guess this one never really jumped out to me as any different. But yeah, I guess from his perspective, since he's been leading the championship, maybe it is different, but for



Six-time IndyCar series champion Scott Dixon has two race wins in 2022, including the Music City Grand Prix. CHRISTOPHER HANEWINCKEL/USA TODAY SPORTS

me, I always see it as every year, with a couple of exceptions, it's been a shoot-out with him and possibly one of his other teammates. So I don't I don't see it any different."

There's no shortage of admiration between the titans representing Penske and CGR.

"Scott, I have tremendous amount of respect for him," Power said. "We've obviously raced together for a very long time. And obviously, he's an absolute legend of this era of IndyCar racing. I've had a fantastic year and I've got a great group around me this year. It's going to be an epic battle between not just us, but all the drivers trying to win this championship."

"Will's done a really good job this year," Dixon added. "I think in keeping a calm head, and obviously everybody

goes through their ups and downs, but even some of the races where he was coming from behind with an issue in qualifying and starting back in the field, he's been so good, so consistent. Honestly for me, it's been fun to watch."

Of the five remaining championship rivals, three are from Down Under. Power hopes this unique IndyCar title showdown will resonate back home.

"A great thing about Scott McLaughlin coming over is he has a huge following down there in Australia and obviously in New Zealand," he said. "But like my dad said, IndyCar, as far down in Australia, it's a great hidden secret. It's such a good series. To anyone who watches it, this is the best racing. I do hope a lot are watching us to see how it ends up."

WEEKEND AUTO RACING

NTT IndyCar Series

Firestone Grand Prix of Monterey

TV: 3 p.m. EDT Sunday, NBC

Track: WeatherTech Raceway Laguna Seca in Monterey, California

Fast fact: Will Power leads two-time champion Josef Newgarden and six-time champion Scott Dixon by 20 points heading into the final race of the season. Marcus Ericsson is 39 points back and Scott McLaughlin 41.

NASCAR Cup Series

Hollywood Casino 400

TV: 3 p.m. EDT Sunday, USA

Track: Kansas Speedway in Kansas City

Fast facts: Erik Jones became the first non-playoff driver to win the first postseason race since 2014. ... Joey Logano moved into first in the playoff standings by six points over William Byron.

NASCAR Xfinity Series

Kansas Lottery 300

TV: 3 p.m. EDT Saturday, USA

Track: Kansas Speedway

Fast fact: Two races remain before the 12-driver playoff field is set.

NASCAR Camping World Truck Series

Kansas Lottery 200

TV: 7:30 p.m. EDT Friday, FS1

Track: Kansas Speedway

Fast fact: Three-time series champion Matt Crafton leads Carson Hocevar by three points for the eighth and final playoff spot moving forward. The other driver behind the cut line is Christian Eckes, six points back.

Formula 1

Italian Grand Prix

TV: 9 a.m. EDT Sunday, ESPN

Track: Autodromo Nazionale Monza in Monza.

Fast facts: Defending series champion Max Verstappen has won four consecutive races for the first time. The 10-time 2022 race winner leads Sergio Perez and Charles LeClerc by 109 points in the standings.

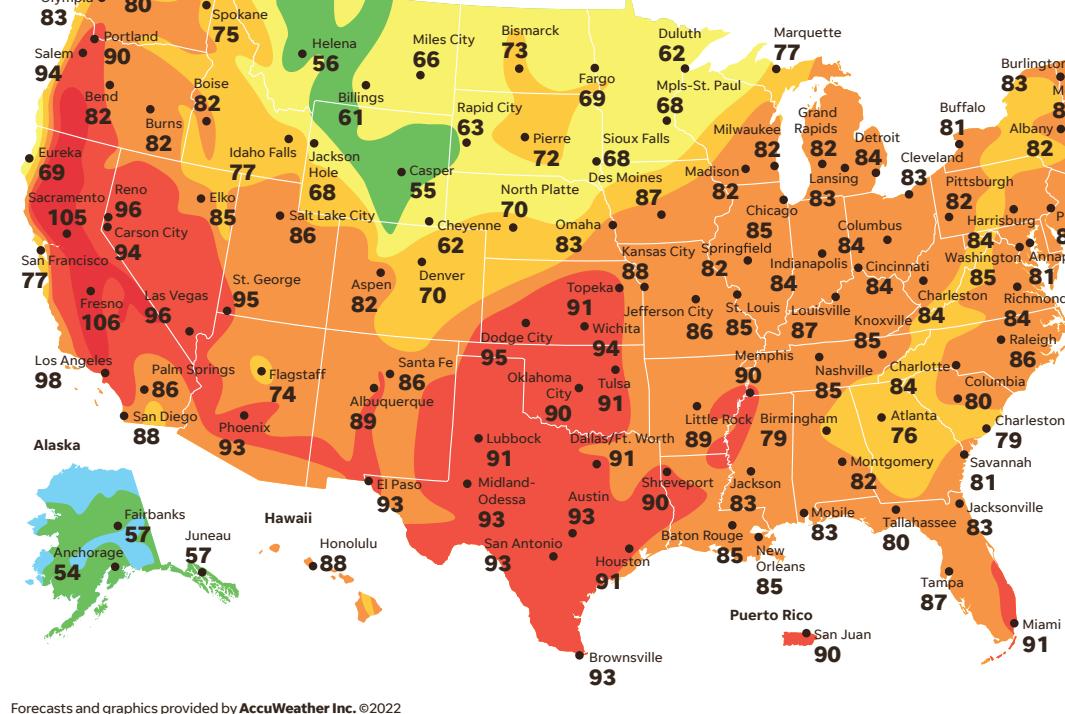
— Associated Press

WEATHER

WEATHER ONLINE
USA TODAY.COM

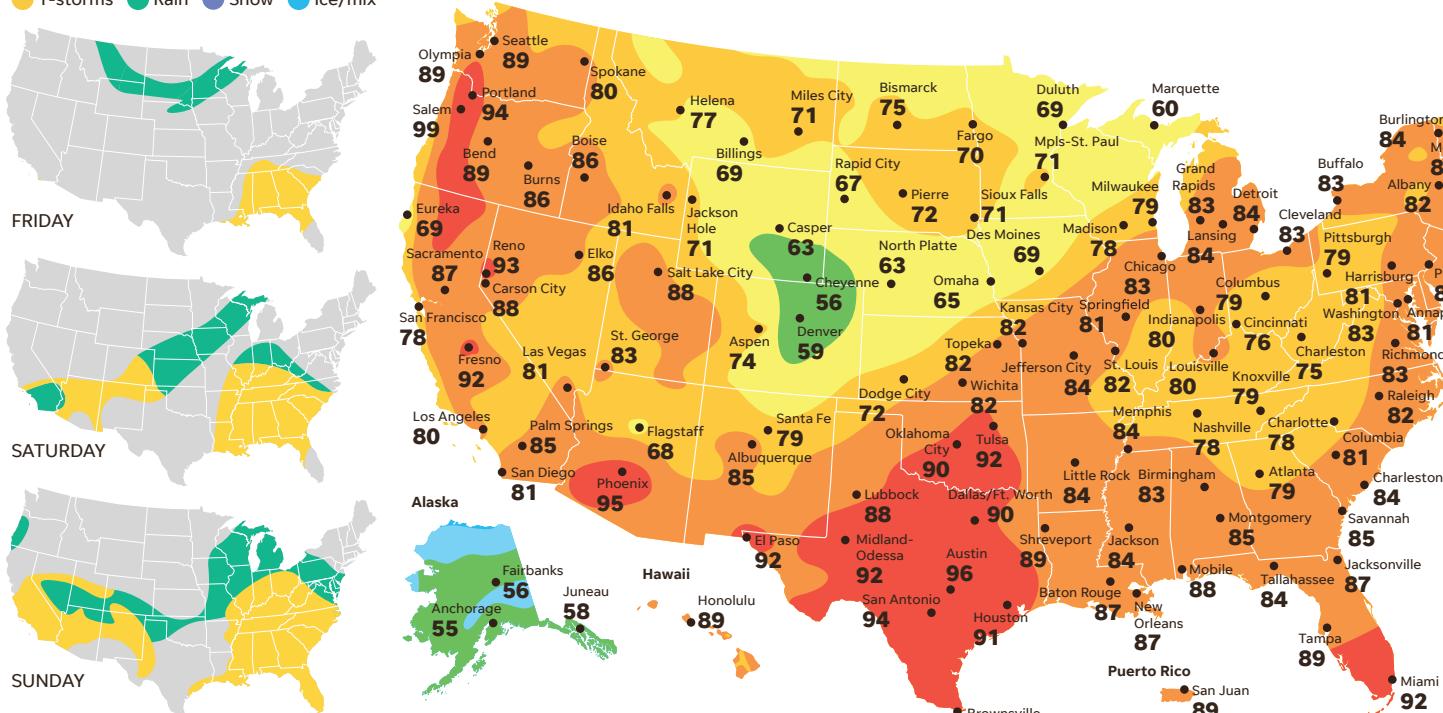
WEEKEND FORECAST

FRIDAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES



PRECIPITATION FORECAST

SATURDAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES



The weather changes.
Stay up-to-date, 24/7.



Download
our free app

AccuWeather
Discover our app

U.S. CITIES

	FRI	SAT
Albany, N.Y.	82/58°	82/60°
Albuquerque	89/65°	85/63°
Amarillo, Texas	91/63°	81/58°
Anchorage, Alaska	54/50°	55/52°
Atlantic City, N.J.	78/65°	78/67°
Augusta, Ga.	78/70°	79/70°
Austin, Texas	93/69°	96/69°
Baton Rouge, La.	85/71°	87/71°
Billings, Mont.	61/43pc	69/48pc
Birmingham, Ala.	79/69°	83/69°
Bismarck, N.D.	73/42°	75/42pc
Boise, Idaho	82/53°	86/58°
Buffalo, N.Y.	81/64°	83/66pc
Burlington, Vt.	83/63°	84/66°
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	86/60°	73/56°
Charleston, S.C.	79/74°	84/75°
Charleston, W.Va.	84/64°	75/65°
Cheyenne, Wyo.	62/43pc	56/42pc
Cincinnati	84/67pc	76/65°
Cleveland	83/65pc	83/65°
Columbia, S.C.	80/71°	81/72°
Columbus, Ohio	84/65pc	79/66°
Cooksonville, Texas	91/75°	91/75°
Daytona Beach, Fla.	88/75°	90/75°
Des Moines, Iowa	87/60°	69/57°
Duluth, Minn.	62/50°	69/51°
Durham, N.C.	83/64°	79/68°
El Paso, Texas	93/68pc	92/70s
Fairbanks, Alaska	57/43°	56/40sh
Flagstaff, Ariz.	74/51pc	68/46°
Fargo, N.D.	69/44pc	70/42pc
Fort Myers, Fla.	88/76°	90/78°
Fort Wayne, Ind.	83/62s	82/64c
Fresno, Calif.	106/80pc	92/73c
Green Bay, Wis.	85/63s	71/58sh
Harrisburg, Pa.	84/61s	81/65°
Hartford, Conn.	81/58s	84/61s
Indianapolis	84/67pc	80/65c
Jackson, Miss.	83/69°	84/69°
Jacksonville, Fla.	83/72°	87/73°
Jefferson City, Mo.	86/61s	84/63pc
Kansas City	88/62s	82/57s
Key West, Fla.	89/83°	90/83pc
Knoxville, Tenn.	85/68°	79/67t
Lincoln, Neb.	85/58pc	68/51sh
Little Rock, Ark.	89/69pc	84/69t
Louisville, Ky.	87/70pc	80/68t
Manchester, N.H.	81/58s	86/61s
Memphis, Tenn.	90/73c	84/71t
Milwaukee	82/64s	79/65pc
Mobile, Ala.	83/71°	88/73t
Montgomery	82/71t	85/71t
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	80/74°	82/74t
Nags Head, N.C.	80/73pc	82/72pc
Nashville, Tenn.	85/69t	78/67t
Newark, N.J.	82/63s	86/68s
Norfolk, Va.	81/71pc	83/72pc
Oakland, Calif.	78/61s	78/64c
Oklahoma City	90/65s	90/63s
Omaha, Neb.	83/58s	65/51sh
Palm Springs, Calif.	86/74r	85/78r
Pittsburgh	82/62s	79/64f
Portland, Maine	74/58s	78/59s
Portland, Ore.	90/68w	94/65w
Providence, R.I.	79/59s	83/62s
Raleigh, N.C.	86/67s	82/69sh
Rapid City, S.D.	63/46r	67/42pc
Reno, Nev.	96/61s	93/65c
Richmond, Va.	84/64s	83/67pc
Rochester, N.Y.	82/62s	84/64pc
Sacramento, Calif.	105/66s	87/66c
San Antonio	93/73s	94/73s
San Jose, Calif.	92/64s	84/67pc
Savannah, Ga.	81/72t	85/72t
Shreveport, La.	90/70s	89/72t
Sioux Falls, S.D.	68/51sh	71/49c
South Bend, Ind.	85/62s	83/65pc
Spokane, Wash.	75/50s	80/52s
Springfield, Mo.	83/60s	83/62pc
Springfield, Ill.	82/61s	81/64c
St. Louis	85/66s	82/67t
Syracuse, N.Y.	83/62s	85/63pc
Tallahassee, Fla.	80/74t	84/73t
Tampa, Fla.	87/77t	89/78t
Topeka, Kan.	91/62s	82/57s
Tucson, Ariz.	87/71c	92/72pc
Tulsa, Okla.	91/65s	92/66s
Wichita, Kan.	94/63s	84/57pc
Wilmington, Del.	83/61s	84/66s
Winston-Salem, N.C.	81/65pc	75/68r

EXTREMES

Note: For contiguous 48 states through 3 p.m. Thursday

HOTTEST: 105°

Las Vegas, Nev.

COLDEST: 31°

Bodie State Park, Calif.

WINDIEST: 50 mph

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

RAINIEST: 100 inches

Seattle, Wash.

SNOWIEST: 100 inches

Boone, N.C.

FOGGIEST: 100 percent

Seattle, Wash.

NFL WEEK 1

Saints at Falcons

TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday, Fox
Tipico Sportsbook line: Saints by 4½
Saints' keys: New Orleans must take advantage of Atlanta inside linebackers Rashaan Evans and Mykal Walker in pass coverage. Saints QB Jameis Winston should look to exploit over the middle. Falcons' keys: Atlanta has little margin for error. Head coach Arthur Smith can help QB Marcus Mariota out by rolling him out of the pocket to neutralize the Saints' pass rushers.

Steelers at Bengals

TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday, CBS
Tipico Sportsbook line: Bengals by 6½
Steelers' keys: Big showings from DL Cameron Heyward and LB T.J. Watt against a rebuilt Bengals line are in order to disrupt timing. QB Mitch Trubisky will need to get the ball out fast when not relying on RB Najee Harris. Bengals' keys: The Bengals took what the Steelers gave them last year, with QB Joe Burrow throwing for three scores with four incompletions in one win and RB Joe Mixon running for 165 yards and two scores in the other.

49ers at Bears

TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday, Fox
Tipico Sportsbook line: 49ers by 6½
49ers' keys: San Francisco is making a transition under QB Trey Lance, who has WRs Deebo Samuel and Brandon Aiyuk and TE George Kittle at his disposal in his first season as starter.
Bears' keys: The strength of Chicago's offense is the running back duo of Montgomery and Khalil Herbert. Look for the Bears to get the ground game going before opening things up in the passing game with QB Justin Fields.

Patriots at Dolphins

TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday, CBS
Tipico Sportsbook line: Dolphins by 3½
Patriots' keys: QB Mac Jones and his unit need to create sustained scoring drives. On defense, New England must keep up with Miami's speed.
Dolphins' keys: Miami's defense needs to get pressure on Jones. With a front that boasts strong pass rushers like DE Emmanuel Ogbah and OLB Jaelan Phillips, they should be able to get through a Patriots offensive line that has been less than impressive.

Eagles at Lions

TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday, Fox
Tipico Sportsbook line: Eagles by 3½
Eagles' keys: Running the ball with RBs Miles Sanders and Kenneth Gainwell behind the powerful line, and mixing in shots in the passing game from QB Jalen Hurts to WR DeVonta Smith and TE Dallas Goedert is diverse firepower the Lions will struggle to stop.
Lions' keys: Prized rookie DE Aidan Hutchinson and his defensive linemates establishing control of the line of scrimmage. Detroit QB Jared Goff has to hit on some shots down the field.

Ravens at Jets

TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday, CBS
Tipico Sportsbook line: Ravens by 7½
Ravens' keys: The Ravens want to show they can still have a good run game with veteran RBs Mike Davis and Kenyan Drake. The Ravens also want to get their tight ends, Mark Andrews and Isaiah Likely, involved.

Jets' keys: QB Joe Flacco needs to be better than he was in the preseason finale against the Giants. The Jets have to establish the ground game with RBs Michael Carter and Breece Hall while keeping Baltimore QB Lamar Jackson off the field.

Jaguars at Commanders

TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday, Fox
Tipico Sportsbook line: Commanders by 2½
Jaguars' keys: There have been few changes to the Washington defense, so Jacksonville should look to get QB Trevor Lawrence comfortable early. On defense, the top priority should be pressuring QB Carson Wentz.
Commanders' keys: New QB Carson Wentz operates best with a strong running game, so offensive coordinator Scott Turner will look to establish the run early. The goal is to get the run going so they take advantage of Wentz's big arm.

Browns at Panthers

TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday, CBS
Tipico Sportsbook line: Panthers by 1½
Browns' keys: The Browns averaged the fourth-most rushing yards per game last season (145.4) behind the potent trio of RBs Nick Chubb, Kareem Hunt and D'Ernest Johnson.

PREVIEWS BY USA TODAY SPORTS MEDIA GROUP NFL TEAM WIRE SITES

Panthers' keys: The Cleveland ground game could very well be the deciding factor. Being that QB Jacoby Brissett, despite his relatively solid weapons, shouldn't scare any defense, the Panthers must tighten up against what will be a heavy dose of Chubb.

Colts at Texans

TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday, CBS
Tipico Sportsbook line: Colts by 7½
Colts' keys: RB Jonathan Taylor had games of 145 and 143 rushing yards against Houston last season. New QB Matt Ryan should be a more effective game manager.

Texans' keys: New offensive coordinator Pep Hamilton's scheme is run-heavy, and Houston may actually have a productive back in RB Dameon Pierce, who had over 6.0 yards per carry in the pre-season.

Packers at Vikings

TV: 4:25 p.m. ET Sunday, Fox
Tipico Sportsbook line: Vikings by 1½
Packers' keys: Establish the run on offense to take pressure off the wide receivers. We know Aaron Rodgers is one of the best quarterbacks, but this will be the first time he will see live game action with three of his receivers.
Vikings' keys: Establish the passing game early. Just like Rodgers, Kirk Cousins hasn't gotten any live game reps with the new scheme installed by head coach Kevin O'Connell. Will Cousins be willing to drive the ball into tight windows?

Giants at Titans

TV: 4:25 p.m. ET Sunday, Fox
Tipico Sportsbook line: Titans by 5½
Titans' keys: The Titans have to keep RB Saquon Barkley in check, both on the ground and through the air, forcing mistake-prone QB Daniel Jones to beat them. On offense, the Titans have to feed RB Derrick Henry to get their offense rolling.

Giants' keys: All defensive game plans against the Titans start and end with keeping Henry in check. Offensively, the Giants should look to attack through the air.

Chiefs at Cardinals

TV: 4:25 p.m. ET Sunday, CBS
Tipico Sportsbook line: Chiefs by 5½
Chiefs' keys: The Chiefs have yet to lose

a season opener with QB Patrick Mahomes as their starter. There are questions with the Cardinals' pass rush and cornerback, so Mahomes can challenge the outside, testing new CB Trayvon Mullen and second-year CB Marco Wilson on the outside.

Cardinals' keys: Success will start with the offense and depend on the defense not being awful. QB Kyler Murray has plenty of offensive weapons.

Raiders at Chargers

TV: 4:25 p.m. ET Sunday, CBS
Tipico Sportsbook line: Chargers by 3½
Raiders' keys: QB Derek Carr now has a fantastic target to aim his passes at – WR Davante Adams, acquired via trade this offseason. The Chargers could be without star CB J.C. Jackson, who is coming off ankle surgery, making this a favorable matchup for the star wideout.
Chargers' keys: Los Angeles looks to get revenge on Las Vegas after their playoff hopes were dashed in a regular-season finale loss last season. On offense, it all starts with QB Justin Herbert and his arsenal of pass catchers to exploit a young and unproven Raiders corner-back group.

Buccaneers at Cowboys

TV: 8:20 p.m. ET Sunday, NBC
Tipico Sportsbook line: Bucs by 2½
Buccaneers' keys: With QB Tom Brady being away from training camp for a couple of weeks, the timing of the passing game will be important in Week 1. Keeping Dallas' young three-techniques out the backfield is step one in a winning game plan.

Cowboys' keys: QB Dak Prescott will need to find WR CeeDee Lamb early and often and also utilize the speed of RB Tony Pollard and WR KaVontae Turpin to offset a renewed focus on RB Ezekiel Elliott running the ball.

Broncos at Seahawks

TV: 8:15 p.m. ET Monday, ESPN/ABC
Tipico Sportsbook line: Broncos by 6½
Broncos' keys: RBs Javonte Williams and RB Melvin Gordon form one of the NFL's best backfield duos. However, all eyes will be on the Broncos' new franchise quarterback, Russell Wilson.

Seahawks' keys: Seattle will have to be one of football's most effective rushing offenses. That means it will lean heavily on starting RB Rashaad Penny.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL EDDIE TIMANUS' BIGGEST WEEK 2 GAMES TO WATCH

Wasn't that fun? Sure, there were a few blowouts in Week 1, but there were plenty of the kinds of wild momentum swings and dramatic finishes that make college football such a tremendous carnival ride every fall.

At first glance, the Week 2 slate might appear less promising. Look closer, however, and there's actually a lot to like on the calendar. The Saturday line-up features three Top 25 matchups – and almost a fourth – as well as some early conference showdowns in the top-tier leagues.

As always, your preference may vary based upon your own rooting interests, but here's a look at our picks for the top five games.

No. 1 Alabama at No. 22 Texas

Time/TV: Saturday, noon ET, Fox
Why watch: There's no disputing this one as the headliner of the week as far as pedigreed programs are concerned. The Crimson Tide play a true non-conference road game against a Power Five opponent, which hasn't happened since a trip to Penn State in 2011. This will become a conference contest in the not-too-distant future, of course, so the Alabama coaching staff will embrace this opportunity to become acquainted with the environs in Austin. The Longhorns have bigger notions, however, as they try to produce the first seismic event of the 2022 campaign. Tide QB Bryce Young's bid for a repeat run to the Heisman got off to a solid start as he accounted for six touchdowns against Utah State. DE Barryn Sorrell and his line mates up front must generate pressure for the Longhorns to have any hope of slowing Young down. The Texas debut of Quinn Ewers against Louisiana-Monroe was also mainly successful, though he was picked off once. He's going to need ground support from RB Bijan Robinson to keep the chains moving.

Why it could disappoint: The best Bama teams of recent vintage were able to bury even quality opponents quickly. It is the defensive side of the ball where the real mismatch could present itself. Alabama will likely not post a second shutout, but LB Will Anderson and Co. will make it difficult for the Longhorns to keep pace if the Tide can build any kind of a lead.



Quarterback Anthony Richardson and the Gators are trying to emerge from last season's 6-7 record. KIM KLEMENT/USA TODAY SPORTS

No. 20 Kentucky at No. 19 Florida

Time/TV: Saturday, 7 p.m. ET, ESPN
Why watch: Nothing like jumping right into conference play. This is a huge one in the SEC East, with the winner likely to emerge as the perceived primary challenger to Georgia in the division. (Yes, we know, Tennessee fans – we'll get to you.) The Gators had to work until the final minute to prevail against Utah, while the Wildcats had a much easier tuneup against Miami (Ohio). Florida fans were eager to see QB Anthony Richardson in action, and he didn't disappoint with 274 yards of total offense and three rushing TDs against the Utes. He figures to be monitored closely by veteran Wildcats LB DeAndre Square. Kentucky QB Will Levis picked up where he left off last season with three TD throws in the opener against the Red-Hawks, though the RB situation remains uncertain with all-conference performer Chris Rodriguez still suspended and Ramon Jefferson out with a knee injury.

Why it could disappoint: It shouldn't, though it's possible the defenses will control matters and keep flashy plays to a minimum. The personnel issues in the Wildcats backfield might leave them ill-equipped to exploit a Gators front that surrendered nearly 6 yards per carry to the potent Utah ground attack.

No. 8 Baylor at No. 25 Brigham Young

Time/TV: Saturday, 10:15 p.m. ET, ESPN
Why watch: This clash of future Big 12 opponents should be worth staying up late. These teams are more than capable of trading scores well into the Provo night. Baylor is the first of the Big 12 favorites to face a significant road test. The Cougars, happy to be back home after last week's trip to South Florida, look to avenge last season's loss in Waco and earn a huge resume boost in their quest for a major bowl. BYU QB Jaren Hall has numerous dynamic weapons in his arsenal, notably versatile WR Puka Nacua. The Bears will counter with QB Blake Shapen, who was nearly flawless in a tuneup against Albany but will face a more athletic and experienced Cougars back seven featuring LBs Max Tooley and Payton Wilgar.

Why it could disappoint: An effective pass rush figures to be the path to building an insurmountable lead. Baylor might be the better candidate to pull that off, with DE Gabe Hall and LB Matt Jones leading a deep rotation up front.

Tennessee at No. 14 Pitt

Time/TV: Saturday, 3:30 p.m. ET, ABC
Why watch: The reigning ACC champi-

on Panthers look to snag a second Power Five non-league victory of the season in this rematch with the upstart Volunteers, who are hoping to make noise in an increasingly crowded SEC East. Pittsburgh prevailed by a touchdown last year in Knoxville, but Tennessee brings a more experienced group into the return visit to Pitt Stadium. New Panthers QB Kedon Slovis endeared himself to Pitt fans forever by engineering the Thursday night Backyard Brawl victory against West Virginia in his first home start, spreading the ball efficiently among seven receivers. Tennessee QB Hendon Hooker was able to do as he pleased last week against Ball State, and his prior experience should have him well prepared for this season's first road trip.

Why it could disappoint: It isn't likely to, but the Panthers might find it hard to get ramped up for a second consecutive week, even with a couple of extra days between games.

No. 12 Southern Cal at Stanford

Time/TV: Saturday, 7:30 p.m. ET, ABC
Why watch: The Lincoln Riley era at USC got off to a solid start against out-matched Rice, but things get more serious for the Trojans as they jump into Pac-12 play on the road. The Cardinal are a few years removed from competing for the conference crown but can still make life difficult for the contenders – just ask last year's Oregon squad. Trojans QB Caleb Williams threw two TD passes and just three incompletions against the Owls. He also flashed the running ability he displayed at Oklahoma, but he'll want to steer clear of Stanford LB Levani Damuni if he decides to take off. Cardinal QB Tanner McKee and RB E.J. Smith could find real estate against the USC defense that scored three times on interceptions but surrendered 280 yards a week ago, with most of those coming in the first half when the game was close.

Why it could disappoint: If the Cardinal defense doesn't get its share of stops, Stanford will have trouble matching scores in a track meet. It's also possible but less likely that USC, while more than capable of mounting a comeback, could experience a cascade of miscues in its first test under new management in hostile environs.

Ex-Saints coach Payton fires salvo at Bucs

Jarrett Bell
USA TODAY

HARRISON, Idaho – No, Sean Payton hasn't completely jumped ship.

Ask the former New Orleans Saints coach to predict the winner of the NFC South, and Payton didn't hesitate to provide Tom Brady & Co. with some bulletin board material to kick off the season.

Payton sees the Saints – and not the widely favored Tampa Bay Buccaneers – seizing the division title.

"And here's why: We finished last year at 9-8, with 50-something players that missed games because of injury," Payton told USA TODAY Sports during a wide-ranging interview. "It's easy to see two more wins there. That puts you at 11 (wins). And then conversely, it appears Tampa has had some injuries. I think the early schedule favors New Orleans, the way it sets up."

"Atlanta's in transition. Carolina's in transition," Payton added, referring to the other NFC South teams. "No disrespect to those teams but I feel like it's a two-team race in that division. Will it be close? I'm sure it will be. But the coaching staff is intact (sans Payton) with the same coordinators. There's a lot of continuity. And that team knows that it can beat Tampa Bay."

The Saints, who will host the Bucs for their home opener in Week 2, have won the past seven regular-season encounters against Tampa Bay (although the Bucs won a playoff game in New Orleans during that span following the 2020 season). So there's certainly validity regarding the Saints' confidence to match up against their heated division rival.

Yet Payton, now a studio analyst for the Fox Sports NFL pregame shows while aiming to ultimately return to the sideline after stepping away from his Saints job this year after 16 seasons, undoubtedly has a bit of bias in the mix when assessing the chances of his former team.

He also wraps the wishful thinking with some relevant context.

Last season, the Saints used an NFL-record 58 players in the starting lineup for at least one game and cycled through 95 players on the 53-man roster. It was one of Payton's best coaching performances,



Former Saints coach Sean Payton has now taken his talents to the broadcast booth with Fox Sports. CHUCK COOK/USA TODAY SPORTS

ances, with the adjustments including the loss of quarterback Jameis Winston to a season-ending torn ACL on Oct. 31 and an offensive line forced to use 11 different starting combinations. New Orleans won four of its final five games and narrowly missed making the expanded playoff field.

Payton, replaced by his former defensive coordinator, Dennis Allen, is bullish on offseason additions such as safety Tyrann Mathieu, receiver Jarvis Landry, backup quarterback Andy Dalton and first-round wide receiver Chris Olave. He believes the Saints will still field one of the NFL's most prolific defenses. He's eager to see star wideout Michael Thomas return to form after battling injuries the past two seasons. And he thinks the offense is in good hands with longtime coordinator Pete Carmichael still in place.

Although Payton called the plays during his tenure, Carmichael stepped into the role in 2012 as the coach served a yearlong suspension stemming from the Saints bounty scandal.

"And he was in my ear every season," Payton said of Carmichael being connected by headset on game days. "They won't miss a beat there."

Payton, however, has reservations when it comes to how the Saints will handle Taysom Hill, the versatile athlete who was Payton's experimental quarterback project.

With Payton gone, the Saints have positioned Hill at tight end for the first time in his five-year professional career. Hill started nine games at quarterback the past two seasons due to injuries and Payton used him extensively otherwise as a run-pass threat weapon. Yet with the return of Winston, who beat out Hill

for the job after Drew Brees retired, and with the addition of Dalton, Allen has seemingly moved on from using Hill in the type of hybrid role that Payton created.

Hill – who until this year had never lined up in a three-point stance – told reporters during training camp that he is willing to adjust to the new position yet admitted that he still hoped to have a quarterback-type role.

Payton still envisions Hill being a factor in short-yardage and goal-line situations.

"I'm anxious to see their plans for how they use him," Payton said. "I've gotta believe he's still going to be involved in packages that put him at quarterback. I'll be surprised if he's not. Now why would they show their hand? They can easily be practicing that and waiting until the start of the regular season. But if his role is reduced relative to those snaps, that would surprise me because he was very effective in that role."

"I know they made an announcement. I get all that. But ... there were too many things that he did well that really caused defenses problems."

What about Winston? Payton was asked if establishing a clear pecking order, with Dalton also in the mix, might make it easier on the psyche of the starting quarterback.

"I completely agree with the idea of, 'Hey, here's our starter,'" Payton said. "If you go back a year-and-a-half ago, our approach was that these guys are going to compete because it had just been Drew. Clearly, rightfully, they wanted to say, 'Jameis is going to start for us.' And they went out and signed Andy as a backup. The opening three weeks will tell us if they are still going to use Taysom in a role or not. I would be surprised if he's not involved in short-yardage, goal line. There's so many things that he can do. That's an asset and I think Dennis and Pete and the powers that be will be smart enough to use him."

That sounds a lot like a passionate man drawing another line in the sand. Whether it's the designs for Hill or the rivalry with the Bucs, it's evident that Payton still has some strong sentiments flowing when it comes to his former team.

Late-night finish lands Alcaraz in Open semis

Brian Mahoney and Howard Fendrich

Associated Press

NEW YORK – This was a match that would not end. Should not end, one might say. Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner, two of the brightest young stars of men's tennis, traded shots of the highest quality and countless momentum swings across five sets for 5 hours, 15 minutes until Alcaraz finally won the last point at 2:50 a.m. ET on Thursday, the latest finish in US Open history.

It was "only" a quarterfinal, no trophy at stake, yet was as taut a thriller as this year's tournament has produced or, likely, will, a tour de force of big cuts on the full sprint and plenty of guts, concluding as a 6-3, 6-7 (7), 6-7 (0), 7-5, 6-3 victory for the No. 3-seeded Alcaraz, a 19-year-old from Spain.

"Honestly," said Alcaraz, who saved a match point in the fourth set, "I still don't know how I did it."

He also used words such as "unbelievable" and "amazing."

"This one will hurt for quite a while," said No. 11 Sinner, a 21-year-old from Italy. "But tomorrow, I will wake up – or today, I will wake up – trying to somehow (take away) only the positives."

When the 382nd, and final, point was over, Sinner and Alcaraz hugged each other. A handshake at the net would not suffice.

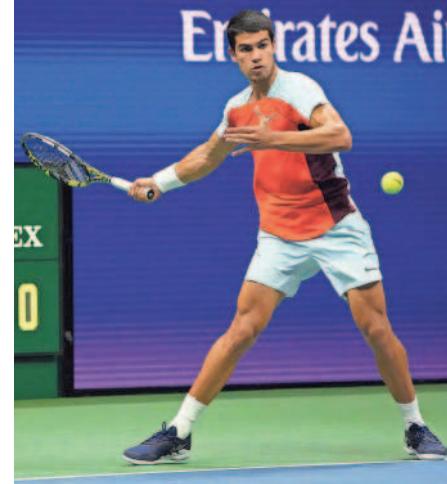
Alcaraz reached his first Grand Slam semifinal and is the youngest man to get that far at the US Open since Pete Sampras won the title at 19 in 1990.

Alcaraz has a chance to move up to No. 1 in the rankings next week and will face No. 22 Frances Tiafoe of the United States on Friday. The other men's semifinal is No. 5 Casper Ruud of Norway vs. No. 27 Karen Khachanov of Russia.

This match began Wednesday evening at about 9:35 p.m. and easily surpassed the previous mark for latest time of finish at the US Open, which had been 2:26 a.m., shared by three matches.

Alcaraz has been working overtime in New York: His five-set victory over 2014 US Open champion Marin Cilic in the fourth round wrapped up at 2:23 a.m. on Tuesday.

"I always say you have to believe in



Carlos Alcaraz needed 5 hours and 15 minutes to defeat Jannik Sinner.
ROBERT DEUTSCH/USA TODAY SPORTS

yourself all the time," Alcaraz said. "The hope is the last thing that you lose."

After his much more mundane, three-set victory over Andrey Rublev in a quarterfinal that finished at about 4:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Tiafoe was rather prescient when asked about Alcaraz and Sinner.

"I just hope they play a marathon match, super-long match," Tiafoe said with a smile, "and they get really tired come Friday."

Not only did this one run late, it ran long: Only a 5-hour, 26-minute match between Stefan Edberg and Michael Chang in 1992 took more time at the US Open.

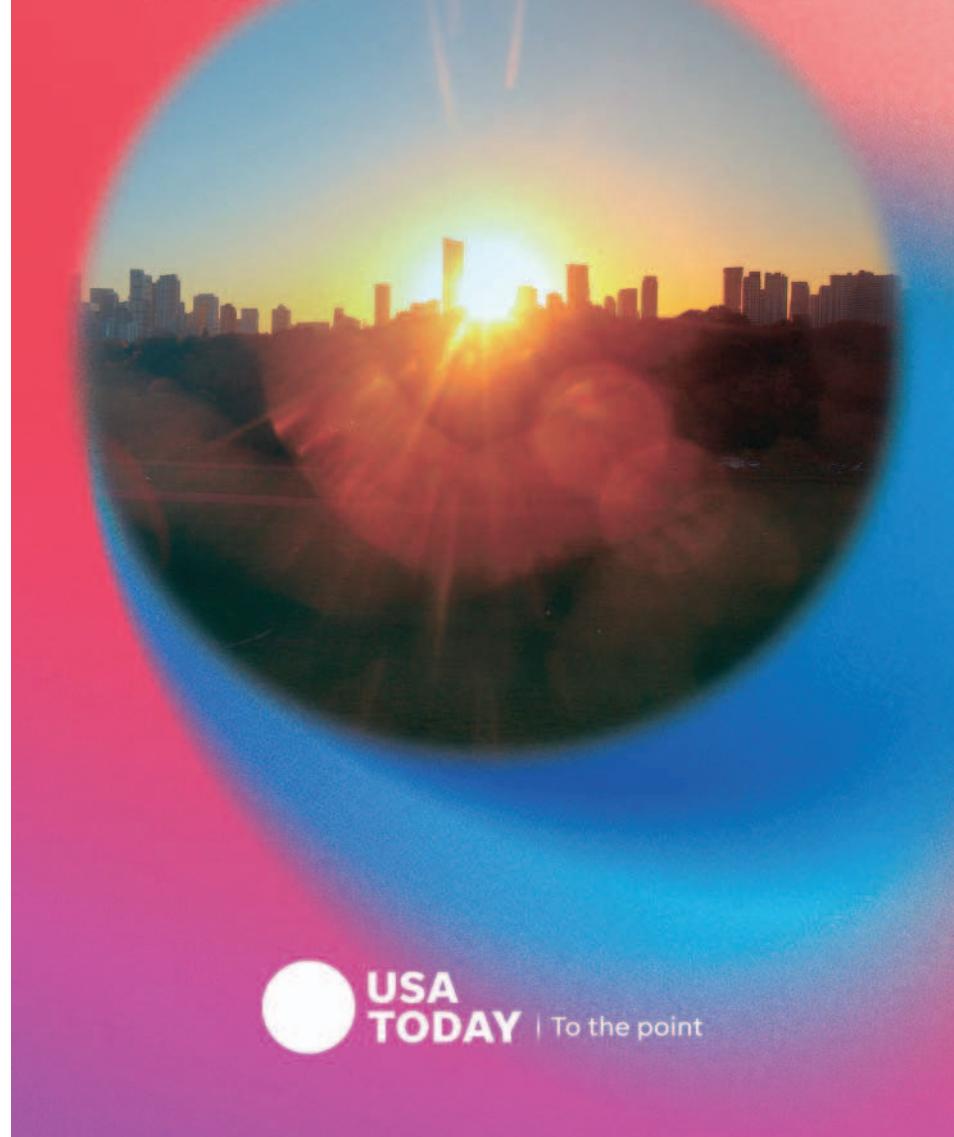
Asked afterward how he was feeling physically out there against Sinner, Alcaraz began with a quick response: "I felt great."

Then he paused, and smiled, before continuing: "Well, probably at the end of the match, I was (at) my end."

Said Sinner: "Could have finished in three sets. Could have finished in four sets. Could have finished in five sets. We both wanted to win, for sure. We both tried our best."

When the end did arrive, Alcaraz dropped to his back, his chest heaving, and covered his face with his hand.

The point is stories you can get through before they're yesterday's news



USA
TODAY | To the point



For 70 years, Elizabeth was the symbol of stability for Great Britain and its 1,000-year-old monarchy, leading it through tragedy and triumph. GETTY IMAGES/WPA POOL

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926 - 2022

Quiet dignity, towering strength

Britain's most enduring monarch dies at 96; King Charles takes the throne

Maria Puente and Jeff Stinson USA TODAY

The longest-ever reign of Queen Elizabeth II, the only monarch most of her subjects have ever known, is over. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor died Thursday at Balmoral Castle, her estate in Scotland. She was 96. • The palace issued a black-bordered statement about 6:30 p.m. local time. "The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon. The King and The Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow." • "The queen is dead, long live the king!" Bells will toll and gun salutes will soon be firing throughout the United Kingdom as broadcasters, proclaiming heralds and Twitter mark the passing of one sovereign and the ascension of the new one. **See ELIZABETH, Page 4D**

Inside: Timeline of biggest moments in her reign **2-3D** | Her most poignant quotes through the years **3D** | Family tree **6D**

King Charles' scaled-back monarchy plan raising question of roles

Marco della Cava

USA TODAY

With the death Thursday of Queen Elizabeth II, thoughts immediately turn to her son. And the ascension of Prince Charles to the British throne promises to have a seismic effect on the roles of other royals orbiting the crown.

Succession isn't the issue. That's a simple matter of everyone in line moving up one step as Charles becomes King

Charles III. Next up, of course, is his firstborn son, Prince William, and then William's firstborn son, Prince George.

Instead, the looming question is what roles and duties will be taken on by royal relatives under a king who has been vocal about scaling back the British monarchy to placate those pushing to reduce taxpayer support for the extended royal family.

But in scaling back his team to a core group, the king will be walking a tight-



King Charles has assumed a more active role in the royal family as prince in recent years. STEVE REIGATE VIA AP FILE

rope, experts say. While having fewer working royals on the payroll may appeal to republicans, such a skeleton crew may inherently detract from the pomp and circumstance that gives this centuries-old institution its magical appeal.

"We'll likely be seeing a smaller group representing the crown, and there will be pros and cons to that," says Carolyn

See CHARLES, Page 6D

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-2022



A timeline of her 70-year reign

The queen's coronation culminates in the traditional Buckingham Palace balcony appearance, to wave to the throngs of celebrating Brits on the Mall. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Rasha Ali USA TODAY

The longest-ever reign of Queen Elizabeth II, the only monarch most of her subjects have ever known, is over. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor died Thursday at Balmoral Castle, her estate in Scotland. She was 96. • After reigning over the United Kingdom for 70 years and having been royal all her life, Queen Elizabeth has lived through some remarkable times. From her first personal crisis as queen in 1953 to Princess Diana's death in 1997, here's a look at some of the most important dates from her life.

1926: A princess is born

Princess Elizabeth, as she was known before ascending the throne at 25, was born in Mayfair, London, to Prince Albert, Duke of York, and his Scottish aristocrat wife, Elizabeth, Duchess of York.

Her sister, Princess Margaret Rose, was born Aug. 21, 1930, at Glamis Castle, the Scottish ancestral home of her mother's family, the earls of Strathmore. The sisters were close to each other and to their parents, often called "We four" by their father.

1936: The Abdication Crisis

King Edward VIII, Elizabeth's uncle, abdicated — gave up his throne — on Dec. 10 to be free to marry a twice-divorced American, Wallis Simpson, after his ministers and the Church of England refused to accept a divorced queen.

As a result, his next oldest brother, Prince Albert, Elizabeth's father, became King George VI and her mother became his consort, Queen Elizabeth (later known as the Queen Mother). Their older daughter, Elizabeth, became the heir to the throne, at the age of 10.

The trauma from the abdication and its existential threat to the British monarchy has never been forgotten in the royal family. Elizabeth's mother blamed the stress for her husband's early death at age 56, though he had lung cancer and died of coronary thrombosis. Her daughter had always vowed never to abdicate.



Princess Elizabeth leaves Westminster Abbey with her husband, Philip, after their wedding on Nov. 20, 1947. She called him as her "strength and stay." AP

1947: Princess Elizabeth marries Prince Philip

Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, a member of the Greek and Danish royal families, wed in November 1947 after a four-month engagement. The two first met in 1934 at the wedding of their relatives, Princess Marina of Greece and Denmark and Prince George, Duke of Kent.

They met again in 1939, when she was 13 and he was 18, and she was forever smitten. Elizabeth and Philip were distant cousins, both great-great-grandchildren of Queen Victoria.



Queen Elizabeth II shakes hands with President Dwight Eisenhower as he and his wife, Mamie, arrive for a dinner in 1957. From left are: British Ambassador Sir Harold Caccia, Prince Philip, the first lady, queen, president and Lady Caccia. AP

1952: Elizabeth II ascends the throne

Elizabeth was a young mother of just 25 and vacationing with Philip in Kenya when her father George VI died on Feb. 6, 1952 at Sandringham, the royal country retreat in Norfolk. She became queen instantly on his death but didn't know it because international communication at the time was less developed. Philip broke the terrible news to her, both aware their lives would now change utterly. She flew to London immediately to be officially proclaimed queen.

Her coronation took place more than a year later, on June 2, 1953, in Westminster Abbey and marked the first time a coronation was televised.

1953: Queen's first personal crisis

The queen faced her first crisis when her sister Princess Margaret wanted to marry Group Capt. Peter Townsend, a divorced World War II hero flyer and her father's equerry. Ministers and church leaders, as with the 1936 abdication crisis, opposed the princess marrying a divorced man. In 1955, under pressure

from the church and a threat to her royal status, and after a forced separation and years of headlines, Margaret and Townsend decided not to marry.

1957: First televised Christmas speech

Like her father before her, the queen delivered a speech to the nation every Christmas, one of the only times she spoke her own words without government scrutiny. Her first televised Christmas speech was in 1957. (Before that, her speeches were broadcast on the radio.)

"I very much hope that this new medium will make my Christmas message more personal and direct," she told her audience.

1957: Queen meets President Eisenhower

Though Princess Elizabeth met President Harry S. Truman in 1951, President Dwight D. Eisenhower was the first American leader she met as queen. She welcomed Eisenhower and his wife,

See TIMELINE, Page 3D

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-2022



In March 1981, just before their wedding, Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer look delighted while flanking a beaming Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace in London. Charles and Diana divorced in August 1996. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Timeline

Continued from Page 2D

1973: Queen's only daughter gets married

The first of the queen's children to marry was her only daughter, Princess Anne, who married her first husband, Capt. Mark Phillips, on Nov. 14, 1973, at Westminster Abbey. The couple had two children, Zara Tindall and Peter Phillips. They divorced in 1992. Princess Anne, now Princess Royal, who remarried in 1992 to Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence, now is grandmother to five children.

1981: The wedding of the century

It was the wedding everyone waited for – the marriage of Elizabeth's son and heir, Prince Charles, to Lady Diana Spencer in St Paul's Cathedral on July 29. A year later, on June 21, 1982, a new heir to the throne, Prince William, was born. His brother, Prince Harry, was born on Sept. 15, 1984.

After years of scandals and recriminations, Charles and Diana divorced in August 1996, under orders from the queen. In 2005, Charles married his longtime mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles, now the Queen Consort.

1992: The 'annus horribilis'

In a woebegone speech (while suffering from a cold), the queen quoted one of her correspondents as saying 1992 was her "annus horribilis," the most painful year of her life. First, three of her children's marriages collapsed, accompanied by tabloid headlines.

On Nov. 20, 1992, the queen's beloved Windsor Castle burned for 15 hours, and 100 rooms were damaged or destroyed. It led to two major changes: The queen and Prince Charles announced they would begin paying taxes, and Elizabeth opened parts of Buckingham Palace to the public the following year to help defray some of the taxpayers' costs to repair Windsor Castle.

1997: Princess Diana dies

Diana and her beau, Dodi Fayed, died in a car crash in a tunnel in Paris while racing to evade paparazzi. Later inquiries found the driver was drunk and no one in the car was wearing a seat belt except the sole survivor, a security guard.

The queen rarely addressed the nation outside of her annual Christmas speech, but Diana's death was one of the few times she did so, under tremendous pressure from the public and the press to show more feeling publicly about the tragedy. A few days before Diana's moving funeral in Westminster Abbey, Elizabeth gave a five-minute televised tribute to the late princess, with whom she had a fraught relationship.

2002: Princess Margaret and the Queen Mother die

Queen Elizabeth's only sibling, Princess Margaret, died in her sleep at age 71 in February 2002 after suffering a stroke the day before. Divorced from her husband, Lord Snowdon, she was the mother of two children, David Viscount Linley and Lady Sarah Chatto, both of whom were close to their aunt the queen.

Contrary to usual royal custom, Princess Margaret was cremated and interred with her father in the King George VI Memorial Chapel in St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

A month after her sister's death, Buckingham Palace announced the death of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at age 101. The palace released a statement on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II that read: "The Queen, with the greatest sadness, has asked for the following announcement to be made immediately. Her beloved mother, Queen Elizabeth, died peacefully in her sleep this afternoon, at Royal Lodge, Windsor." She, too, was laid to rest in the memorial chapel named for her husband.

2015: Longest-reigning British monarch

On Sept. 9, 2015, Queen Elizabeth II became the longest-reigning British monarch. As 41st monarch since 1066, she surpassed her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria for the longest run in the country's history – just over 63 years and six months. Elizabeth marked the day by carrying on with her daily royal duties – business as usual.

2019: Prince Andrew steps back from royal duties

After the fallout from Prince Andrew's past friendship with American sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, the Duke of York, the queen's second son, announced he was stepping away from his royal duties.

Two years later, Andrew was sued in federal court in New York and accused of sex crimes, including being a knowing beneficiary of the alleged sex trafficking of a teen girl by Epstein. Andrew, 62, has vehemently denied all the accusations, and Buckingham Palace has backed him up in emphatic statements.

2020: Prince Harry and Duchess Meghan quit royal duties

In a shocking, unprecedented move, Prince Harry and Duchess Meghan of Sussex announced they were stepping down from their senior royal roles and moving to North America. Later, they



Queen Elizabeth II appears on a screen via videolink from Windsor Castle in London, Oct. 26, 2021. VICTORIA JONES/AP

cited the "toxic" British media as a reason for doing so.

Bitter recriminations followed. Harry and Meghan ended up moving to California, where they began their new lives in Santa Barbara County. The couple have since signed production deals with Netflix and Spotify and welcomed a second child.

Then, in an interview in March 2021 with Oprah Winfrey, Harry and Meghan shocked again with more details about why they left, suggesting racism in the royal family and indifference to Meghan's pleas for mental health support.

More recriminations and counter-accusations followed as relations between the Sussexes and the rest of Harry's family, including his father and brother, deteriorated.

2020: Queen addresses nation on COVID-19

Amid shutdowns and anxiety over the spread of the coronavirus in Britain and around the world, Elizabeth addressed the nation in a "rare and historic" move, calling on the U.K. to rise to the challenge of the pandemic. The queen acknowledged the daunting trials brought by the crisis, seeking to lift spirits and offer hope to the country in its hour of need.

2021: Prince Philip dies

The Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Elizabeth's husband and Britain's oldest and longest-serving royal spouse in 10 centuries, died April 9 at 99 years old, just short of his 100th birthday. Married to the queen for more than 70 years, Philip was a steady presence behind her at thousands of public events, as familiar to the British people as the queen, if not always as beloved.

His death was a personal loss to the monarch and to his family, and a substantial one: Most British historians and commentators believe Philip was one of the keys to the queen's enduring success as a monarch. The queen herself famously described him as her "strength and stay."

2022: Queen Elizabeth II dies 'peacefully'

"The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon," the palace tweeted. "The King and The Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow."

Queen Elizabeth II died with her family by her side.

A fleet of cars carrying Prince William, Prince Andrew, Prince Edward and his wife, Sophie, the Countess of Wessex, arrived at Balmoral Castle about an hour after their plane landed in Aberdeen, Scotland.

King Charles, along with his wife, Queen Consort Camilla, and sister, Princess Anne, arrived earlier that day.

Prince Harry, who was due to appear at a charity awards ceremony in London later Thursday, canceled that appearance and was making his way to Scotland separately.

Contributing: Maria Puente, Hannah Yasharoff, USA TODAY; Christine Rushton, Associated Press

Elizabeth's graceful quotes are remembered

David Oliver
USA TODAY

Queen Elizabeth II, who died Thursday at 96 years old, had an elegant flair for the English language throughout her 70-year reign.

Here are some of her most powerful words:

On the balcony of Buckingham Palace on the last day of the Platinum Jubilee earlier this year: "When it comes to how to mark seventy years as your queen, there is no guidebook to follow. It really is a first. ... I remain committed to serving you to the best of my ability, supported by my family."

On her coronation day, in 1953: "I have in sincerity pledged myself to your service, as so many of you are pledged to mine. Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust."

On her first televised Christmas broadcast, in 1957: "I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice but I can do something else – I can give my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations."



Princess Elizabeth in South Africa in 1947. EDDIE WORTH/AP

"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service."

On her 21st birthday, in 1947, broadcasting to the world from South Africa

On Princess Diana's death, in 1997: "Since last Sunday's dreadful news we have seen, throughout Britain and around the world, an overwhelming expression of sadness at Diana's death. We have all been trying in our different ways to cope. It is not easy to express a sense of loss, since the initial shock is often succeeded by a mixture of other feelings: disbelief, incomprehension, anger - and concern for those who remain. We have all felt those emotions in these last few days. So what I say to you now, as your Queen and as a grandmother, I say from my heart. First, I want to pay tribute to Diana myself. She was an exceptional and gifted human being. In good times and bad, she never lost her capacity to smile and laugh, nor to inspire others with her warmth and kindness. I admired and respected her – for her energy and commitment to others, and especially for her devotion to her two boys."

Reflecting on her marriage to Prince Philip, in 1997: "My husband has quite simply been my strength and stay all these years, and I owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim."

On the Sept. 11 attacks, in 2001: "Grief is the price we pay for love."

On peace, reflecting on WWII, in 2004: "In remembering the appalling suffering of war on both sides, we recognize how precious is the peace we have built in Europe since 1945."

Her first tweet, in 2014: "It is a pleasure to open the Information Age exhibition today at the @ScienceMuseum and I hope people will enjoy visiting. Elizabeth R."

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-2022

Elizabeth

Continued from Page 1D

Her eldest son and heir, Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, 73, immediately became king upon her death. His wife became Queen Consort Camilla.

Buckingham Palace issued another black-bordered statement from "His Majesty, the King," shortly after her death.

"The death of my beloved Mother, Her Majesty The Queen, is a moment of the greatest sadness for me and all members of my family," the statement said. "We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished Sovereign and a much-loved Mother. I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realms and the Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world."

"During this period of mourning and change, my family and I will be comforted and sustained by our knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which The Queen was so widely held."

As the 41st monarch since William the Conqueror in 1066, Elizabeth was the symbol of stability as Britain and its 1,000-year-old monarchy sailed through roiling storms of the modern age, including a deadly pandemic.

Elizabeth enjoyed robust health most of her life, but lingering "mobility issues" affected her in recent months. She increasingly handed over duties to Charles, from the recreational to the constitutional. Last week, she couldn't attend the annual Highland Games, the Braemar Gathering, which she never missed throughout her reign.

On Tuesday she presided over the transition of one prime minister to a new one, a constitutional duty as head of state which took place at Balmoral for the first time in her reign.

But on Wednesday, the palace announced she would not be able to attend via Zoom the meeting of the Privy Council, the standing committee of senior governmental advisers, after doctors' orders to rest.

She also missed significant appearances in June during the four days of celebration of her Platinum Jubilee of 70 years on the throne.

In February, two weeks after marking the 70 anniversary of her ascension to the throne in 1952, the palace announced she had tested positive for COVID-19. During an audience in mid-February, the queen mentioned to her visitors that she had difficulty moving, leading to "ongoing mobility" issues, as Buckingham Palace put it, that prevented some appearances, including the State Opening of Parliament on May 10.

She had missed this important head-of-state role only twice before during her reign, both for pregnancies, but for the first time she officially delegated Charles to stand in for her, accompanied by her elder son, Prince William.

She was preceded in death by Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, her husband of 73 years, who died April 9, 2021, at Windsor Castle at age 99, just short of his 100th birthday. He was Britain's oldest and longest-serving royal spouse in 10 centuries.

His funeral yielded poignant pictures of the queen, alone and masked, in St. George's Chapel at Windsor for a sublime service attended by only 30 members of his family amid COVID-19 restrictions. At the end of March, she appeared in public for her first major in-person gathering since her COVID-19 diagnosis, leading her family, dozens of foreign royals and hundreds of Britain's great and good in a service of thanks-giving for the life of her late husband at Westminster Abbey.

The death of a monarch is followed by a flurry of rituals, including an address to the nation by the new king and by the prime minister, followed by long-established funeral plans carried out with military precision.

For now, however, Britain prepared to mourn.

The plans include a funeral worthy of the devout and dutiful woman who pledged herself at age 21 in service to her nation and never wavered as the living symbol of the British people.

Her historic reign begins

She reigned, never ruled, as Britain's head of state and constitutional figurehead for decades. She acceded to the throne on Feb. 6, 1952, when her father, King George VI, died at age 56. She was just 25.

Having celebrated her Diamond Jubilee of 60 years on the throne in 2012, she was the U.K.'s oldest monarch ever, and the longest-serving, surpassing her



Elizabeth attends a parade June 28 at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, Scotland. She enjoyed robust health for most of her life, but in recent months she increasingly handed over duties to her heir, Prince Charles. GETTY IMAGES/WPA POOL

great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria, who reigned 63 years and died in 1901.

More than half the people alive in Britain today have known no other monarch on their throne, their coins, their bank notes and their stamps. A modest, even shy girl, she became the most famous woman in the world, the most photographed and depicted human being in history, who met and shook hands with an estimated 4 million people or more during her reign.

She inherited a sun-never-sets empire just starting to disintegrate, then presided over its final collapse into a Commonwealth of nations that looked to her as its leader, and to which she was deeply committed to the end. She was Britain's stiff upper lip during the 20th-century post-World War II recovery, the last gasps of the empire, the Cold War and the war on terrorism.

In her colorful hats and her sturdy sensible shoes, her ever-present handbag on her arm, she was a constant through kaleidoscope changes as the 20th century roared into the 21st: the growth of television, Beatlemania, Britain's demographic transformation to a multi-ethnic society, and the rise of a celebrity culture that ensnared nearly every member of her family.

She adapted to changing times by changing – and yet not changing on the important things, such as maintaining a dignified silence – while embracing the internet age with a palace website, Facebook and Twitter accounts, and even a royal channel on YouTube.

She was stoic and carried on through the antics and scandals of members of her family. Most recently, she had to weather the public downfall of her son Prince Andrew for his friendship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, which later led in an embarrassing civil lawsuit accusing him of sexual abuse. And her grandson Prince Harry's decision to move to America with his wife, Meghan, and leave royal life behind resulted in months of recriminations further inflamed by accusations of racism (hotly denied) in the royal family.

When it was necessary, she shed her usual reserve. She presided over the heart-rending 1997 funeral of her former daughter-in-law, Princess Diana, the "people's princess." She did it – despite

her desire to protect Charles and Diana's two sons – to save the standing of the monarchy from a grief-maddened populace enraged by what seemed to be royal coldness and detachment in the wake of Diana's death in a car crash in Paris.

If the queen seemed occasionally out of step with the accelerating changes, she redeemed herself and the monarchy by adjusting, and she gained new popularity and admiration in her later years. Always deeply respected, she was beloved by the time she reached 80, helped partly by the release of the film "The Queen." Dame Helen Mirren's transcendent performance as Her Majesty won her the Academy Award for best actress in 2007, and her tribute in her acceptance speech is as apt a eulogy as any.

"For 50 years and more, Elizabeth Windsor has maintained her dignity, her sense of duty – and her hairstyle," Mirren said in her acceptance speech. "She has had her feet planted firmly on the ground, her hat on her head and her handbag on her arm. She has weathered many, many storms. And I salute her courage and her consistency."

A rock for the monarchy

Biographers point to the queen's devotion to duty as her most important personal and professional characteristic, raising questions about whether the monarchy can survive long without her. Even foes of the monarchy, known as republicans in Britain, acknowledged they admired her. They see the monarchy as a hereditary institution wrapped in wealth and privilege that has no place in a modern democratic society; they credit her with not only saving it but making it more popular than ever.

"She will be remembered for keeping the British monarchy going through the 20th and into the 21st century – and for leaving it in better shape," says Robert Lacey, the British historian and biographer who has written four books on the queen. "She was imbued with a great sense of duty and responsibility. In the long run, that would be a strength and her charm."

Elizabeth's sense of duty was established early in her life during the monarchy's worst modern crisis: the abdication of the throne by her uncle, King Ed-

ward VIII, in 1936. The abdication shocked Britain, especially after the government and palace had kept the crisis out of the headlines until almost the day it happened. From the perspective of commoners and dukes alike, the former king was seen as shirking his duty and turning his back on his country.

The profound effect on 10-year-old Elizabeth, Lacey says, is that from then on duty was her watchword. Unlike Edward, the queen swore to never abandon the role she was thrust into by chance of birth and thus throw the monarchy and nation into crisis.

The quiet early years

She was unlikely to be queen when born the first child of Prince Albert (Bertie) and the former Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, the Duke and Duchess of York, on April 21, 1926, at her parents' townhouse in London. Her father's eldest brother, known in the family as David, was the Prince of Wales and heir to the throne after his father, and her grandfather, George V. Although single when he became Edward VIII in January 1936, he was still young enough to marry and have children.

Elizabeth spent her early years in quiet family life, largely at estates in the country, where she developed a lifelong affinity for horses and dogs, especially Welsh corgis. That bucolic life was shattered after Edward quit the throne in December 1936 to marry Wallis Simpson, a twice-divorced American.

The abdication thrust Elizabeth's father to the throne as George VI (he took the name to honor his father), which made Elizabeth heiress presumptive and the likely next monarch. So she became a queen in training under the tutelage of her father and her austere paternal grandmother, Queen Mary.

She made her first public speech at age 14 in 1940 on BBC Radio, speaking to children, like her, who were being evacuated to safety from the London Blitz in World War II. Two years later, she got her first military appointment, colonel-in-chief of the Grenadier Guards.

Over the years, her official duties increased, giving her a taste of what was expected of her in charitable work and as figurehead of the British government and military. She became head of children's hospitals. She toured Scotland with her parents. She even became a licensed military driver in 1945 toward the end of the war.

Although she and her younger sister, Princess Margaret Rose, spent much of the war years in the safety of Windsor Castle, they and their parents helped rally the British in the brutal effort to win the war against the Nazis. When Britain succeeded, the country was nearly bankrupt but also deeply bonded to the royal family for their roles.

On her 21st birthday, during a visit to South Africa, then still part of the empire, Princess Elizabeth addressed the British people by radio, vowing that her



Queen Elizabeth II, then Princess Elizabeth, left, joins her mother, Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, her father, King George VI, and her sister, Princess Margaret, at Buckingham Palace on V-E Day, May 8, 1945. AP

See ELIZABETH, Page 5D

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-2022

Elizabeth

Continued from Page 4D

life, "whether it be long or short," would be dedicated to serving the nation and the imperial family, now known as the Commonwealth. In 1977, celebrating her Silver Jubilee of 25 years on the throne, she told the nation that though her vow was made "in my salad days, when I was green in judgment, I do not regret nor retract one word of it."

Tumultuous times

In 1947, Elizabeth married her distant cousin, Philip (she was the first British monarch to celebrate a diamond wedding anniversary), the exiled Greek prince raised mostly in Britain who was an officer in the Royal Navy and with whom she had been in love since she was 13 and he was 18.

In contrast to the 1981 fairy-tale extravaganza wedding of Charles to the former Lady Diana Spencer, Elizabeth's wedding was simple. With the country still recovering from the war, she collected ration coupons for her dress like other young brides of the time, which further endeared her to the public.

The wedding in Westminster Abbey helped lift some of the gloom that fell over London after the war, and soon there were two children to celebrate: Charles, the heir, and Princess Anne, now the Princess Royal. Her early years as a wife and mother were her happiest; then her father died in his sleep while she was on holiday in Kenya. She flew home a queen, somber but composed.

She was crowned a year later, on June 2, 1953, by this time royally trained for her job, ready for the responsibilities, accepting of the fact that her life and her family's life would never be the same.

As a queen, Elizabeth has been an unqualified success. As a mother, not always. She suffered grief and ridicule as head of a modern, often dysfunctional royal family trapped in public expectations of Victorian-era values.

Charles was born in 1948, followed by Anne in 1950. Andrew and Edward came much later, in 1960 and 1964.

The queen always wanted a large family but put it off because duty came



Elizabeth and son Prince Charles in the garden of Frogmore House in Windsor, England, in March 2021. CHRIS JACKSON/BUCKINGHAM PALACE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

first, biographer Lacey says. Hers was never a warm and fuzzy persona, he says, and her cool aloofness may have carried over into family life.

Charles told his biographer, Jonathan Dimbleby, in 1994 that the queen was an absentee mother. She was off being queen and he was left with nannies, he said. Andrew and Edward, however, insisted they weren't starved for motherly attention. "They made it clear they thought their mother had been absolutely marvelous," Lacey says.

Still, her children were the chief source of distress in the most painful year of her life, 1992, what she called her "annus horribilis," when the marriages of three of her children collapsed, accompanied by reams of tabloid headlines.

Then, on Nov. 20, 1992, the queen's beloved Windsor Castle burned for 15 hours; 100 rooms were damaged or destroyed. "It was symbolic of what was happening to the house of Windsor," Lacey says.

Taxes paid to restore the castle because it was state property but Elizabeth opened parts of Buckingham Palace to the public the following year, and tourist receipts helped offset the costs.

Then, things got worse. The death of the then-divorced Diana in a car crash in Paris on Aug. 31, 1997, threatened the queen's standing and that of the monarchy more than any time of her reign.

While the queen's weeping subjects piled flowers waist-high outside Buckingham Palace and Diana's home at Kensington Palace in London, the royal family kept their grief under wraps as they holed up on their annual summer holiday at Balmoral, their estate in Scotland.

Her instinctive need to grieve privately was seen as out of sentimental step with a nation that wanted an unprecedented public display of sorrow and respect. At that moment, the queen's renowned sense of public sentiment eluded her. Her stiff upper lip, and the monarchy, seemed frozen in a distant time.

On the advice of then-new but savvy Prime Minister Tony Blair and others, the queen was persuaded to return to London to speak to the nation in a rare televised address. At the funeral the next day, when Diana's casket passed her standing outside the palace, she bowed her head.

With that simple gesture, the queen began turning public opinion.

'In the end, she triumphed'

Esteem for the queen grew as years passed and a lifetime of official engagements stacked one on top of another. By the time of her Diamond Jubilee in 2012, according to Buckingham Palace, she had conferred more than 404,500 awards and honors; hosted 1.5 million

people at garden parties and another 50,000 people a year at banquets, lunches, dinners and receptions; met 11 U.S. presidents (13 as of 2021); hosted 102 state visits in London; traveled on 325 overseas visits, including 96 state visits, to 150 countries; sent more than 540,000 telegrams to couples in the U.K. and Commonwealth celebrating a diamond wedding anniversary; was patron to more than 620 charities or organizations; sat for 129 official portraits; and launched 23 ships. She owned 30 corgis since 1944, and her horses won nearly every major race in Britain.

Despite her calculated royal distance from the public — she never gave an interview, and people who met her were encouraged not to divulge what she said, which was usually innocuous anyway — the queen had become a familiar mother figure to her family of subjects.

"I think it's because we are comfortable with her," says Ingrid Seward, a veteran royals observer, biographer and editor of *Majesty* magazine, as the queen's popularity soared in her later years. "We can sympathize with all that she has gone through. We know that the queen is always looking out for us. We really respect her."

During her later years, foes of the monarchy acknowledged they would never be able to abolish the throne as long as the queen was alive. Public admiration for her was just too great, conceded Graham Smith of Republic, Britain's loudest advocacy group for scrapping the monarchy.

That's because the queen went about her job and avoided controversy, Smith says. Although every prime minister starting with Winston Churchill briefed her nearly every Tuesday during her reign, Elizabeth stayed above politics, never giving a hint of her political leanings or signaling publicly which prime minister she liked best.

Serious debate about getting rid of the royals will come only under a monarch less astute and less admired than Elizabeth on the throne, Smith says. "Her most enduring quality was her ability to hold onto power."

Lacey considers that a fitting tribute to a woman who devoted her life to performing a role she didn't choose.

"In the end," Lacey says, "she triumphed."

PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

EDITED Erik Agard

BY May Huang

PR PROS

ACROSS

1 Word before "hopes" or "horse"

5 Radical ___-care

9 Puts on social media

14 "Only Time" singer

15 October birthstone

16 Hawaiian expression

17 Relaxing video genre

18 Location

19 Pine

20 Antiestablishment musician

23 Get ___ of (throw away)

24 Use part of a pencil

25 Piece in flower girl's basket

27 "Maya and the Robot" writer Ewing

28 ___ Moines, Iowa

29 To and ___

31 Required

33 Fiction writer's works

36 When nocturnal animals sleep

37 Fortuneteller who interprets life lines

40 One of the Great Lakes

41 Gateway Arch city, for short

42 Labor Day's month (Abbr.)

44 Reproductive health specialists

46 ___ allow it

48 Plopped down

50 Shape of a Yuletide dessert

51 Spice used in za'atar

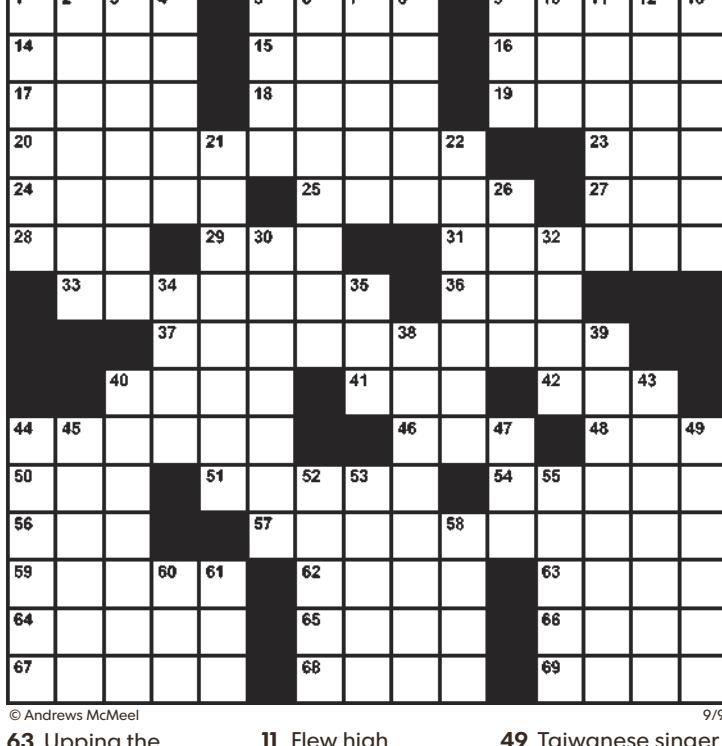
54 Craftiness

56 "With all ___ respect..."

57 NPS employee

59 Provide funding for

62 In ___ of (instead of)



© Andrews McMeel

11 Flew high

12 Not just survive

13 Polished with rough paper

14 Choruses of songs

15 Always Be My Maybe" star Park

16 Guide a dance partner

17 Makes angry

18 Peepers

19 The Grand Ole ___

20 Upping the ___?

(rly?)

21 Email attachments before an event

22 Left a position

23 Goaded

24 Artist's paint board

25 Este, among the Haim sisters

26 Play in an inflatable castle

27 Airport near JFK

28 ___ Moines, Iowa

29 To and ___

30 Required

31 Fiction writer's works

32 When nocturnal animals sleep

33 Fortuneteller who interprets life lines

34 One of the Great Lakes

35 Gateway Arch city, for short

36 Labor Day's month (Abbr.)

37 Reproductive health specialists

38 ___ allow it

39 Plopped down

40 Shape of a Yuletide dessert

41 Spice used in za'atar

42 Craftiness

43 "With all ___ respect..."

44 NPS employee

45 Provide funding for

46 In ___ of (instead of)

47 Word in a futbol chant

48 ___ Moines, Iowa

49 Taiwanese singer Teng

50 Island near Tunisia

51 Tracks on an opera diva's album

52 Unadon fish

53 Reddish-brown hue

54 Metallic resource

55 Damp

56 ___ Moines, Iowa

57 NPS employee

58 Provide funding for

59 In ___ of (instead of)

60 Word in a futbol chant

61 Damp

62 In ___ of (instead of)

63 Upping the ___?

(rly?)

64 Get a goal or a touchdown

65 Stick-and-pokes, for example

66 Understands

67 Principle

68 Job title

69 Brainstorming breakthrough

70 ___ Moines, Iowa

71 Flew high

72 Not just survive

73 Polished with rough paper

74 Choruses of songs

75 Always Be My Maybe" star Park

76 Guide a dance partner

77 Makes angry

78 Peepers

79 The Grand Ole ___

80 Upping the ___?

(rly?)

81 Email attachments before an event

82 Left a position

83 Goaded

84 Artist's paint board

85 Este, among the Haim sisters

86 Play in an inflatable castle

87 Airport near JFK

88 ___ Moines, Iowa

89 To and ___

90 Required

91 Fiction writer's works

92

Charles

Continued from Page 1D

Harris, historian at the University of Toronto and author of "Raising Royalty: 1,000 Years of Royal Parenting."

On the con side, Harris foresees less frequent and shorter visits to the 54 Commonwealth countries, including Canada, Australia and New Zealand, which could lead to those nations debating whether to remove the British monarch as head of state. (Barbados already has.)

The pro side: "There will be a stronger line between who is representing the country and who is simply related to the royal family," says Harris. "That's in contrast to Queen Elizabeth, who brought in many cousins to help with tours and events as she oversaw a transition from empire to commonwealth."

So who's in and who's out?

Royal watchers agree Charles is not likely to corral extended relatives into the crown's affairs as his mother did with her cousin the Duke of Kent, most famous for his role handing out trophies to the victors at Wimbledon.

Rather, his tapered vision of the monarchy certainly will center on himself and his wife Camilla, who the queen decreed on the 70th anniversary of the accession in February is to be called Queen Consort.

The elevation in stature of Camilla — who when she wed Charles in 2005 it was announced she would be Princess Consort — is an acknowledgment of the way she has exercised her duties alongside her husband over the decades. That decorum included taking the title of Duchess of Cornwall, a purposeful avoidance of repeating the Princess of Wales title that had become so associated with the late Princess Diana.

The other key figures in Charles' tight circle are likely to include Charles' son William and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge; and Charles' sister Princess Anne and his brother Prince Edward, along with his wife Sophie, Countess of Wessex. As for William and Kate's three children, Prince George, 9, Princess Charlotte, 7, and Prince Louis, 4, they also are likely to play active roles as they get older.

Those not likely to represent the crown include Prince Andrew, Charles' scandal-ridden brother, and Charles' son Prince Harry, who famously pulled back from royal duties and lives in California with his wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex and their two children.

While it remains to be seen if Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, Andrew's daughters with ex-wife Sarah Ferguson, get called upon, the list isn't likely to extend much beyond immediate family, says Nicoletta Gullace, associate professor of history at the University of New Hampshire.

"Metaphorically, heads may roll under the new king," says Gullace, who specializes in British history. She says royals such as Prince Michael of Kent, another of the queen's cousins on her father's side, who lives on royal grounds and recently was in the news after being accused of selling access to the Kremlin, "could be out in the cold."

There's the sheer impossibility of a small cadre of trusted royals handling all that is traditionally required of the monarchy. Charles will be fully occupied with meetings with foreign leaders and his own prime minister, leaving Camilla and William to take up the slack.

How to maintain an 'air of majesty'

"Everyone is going to be working hard and walking a fine line in any slimmed-down monarchy," says Victoria Arbiter, longtime royal watcher and daughter of Elizabeth's one-time press liaison, Dickie Arbiter.

Arbiter says a looming concern is "maintaining an air of majesty" while at the same time addressing issues ranging from politics to climate change. "And if there are only a few people doing all that, it'll be easy for constituents and nations to feel slighted," she says.

Another factor is age. Charles is 73, and his wife is 75. Although Elizabeth and her mother were vibrant into their 90s, it is unknown how active the new monarchy is apt to be. That will place more pressure on younger members of the royal family to be included, says Joe Little, managing editor of *Majesty* magazine.

"Maybe in the end what the royal family can even be expected to do needs to be streamlined," he says.

Little says another critical factor is the difference between when Elizabeth assumed the throne and when her son did: In 1952, the world looked on in awe as a 25-year-old mother of young children suddenly became the sovereign. Charles' rite of passage has been de-



Prince Harry and Duchess Meghan made headlines with their interview with Oprah Winfrey. HARPO PRODUCTIONS/JOE PUGLIESE VIA GETTY IMAGES

ades in the waiting and happened at a time when the institution itself is being scrutinized like never before.

"The problem for the monarchy is Charles can never be his mother, and besides this is a much more challenging job for him in these fraught political times," says Anna Pasternak, veteran royal observer and author of "The American Duchess: The Real Wallis Simpson."

Charles' ascension plays into the hands of "today's woke culture that sees him as an older white man of privilege," Adding to the troubles facing his reign, she says, is the possibility of more broadsides from Harry and his wife, the former Meghan Markle, who leveled charges of racism against royal family members during their TV interview with Oprah Winfrey.

The ideal situation, says Pasternak, would be Charles deciding to abdicate in order for his more popular son and daughter-in-law to take over at a time when the monarchy needs stability and not more controversy.

But abdication is unlikely, considering Charles' apparent eagerness for the role after waiting so long. There is also the specter of that very traumatic event back in 1936, when the newly crowned King Edward decided mere months into his reign that he wanted to marry divorced American socialite Wallis Simpson and renounced the throne, paving the way for Elizabeth's father to become king.

Charles will have his challenges. The sense that he will be ruling in a potentially crippling time for the House of Windsor is shared by royal watchers.

"There's still some relevance, but the age of deference is long gone," says Little. "There was some thought a while ago that the king could rely on his children to help him. But with Harry and Meghan pulling back and moving away, clearly, a rethinking is in order."

In keeping with a smaller monarchy, royal experts do not expect Charles to dispense titles with abandon. He may choose to bestow some of the late Prince Philip's titles on his brother Edward to bolster his status when executing royal duties.

But he is unlikely to offer titles to Harry and Meghan's young children, given the rift between father and son. "I think it's doubtful Charles will automatically make any of (Harry and Meghan's) children princes or princesses," says Christopher Andersen, author of several royal biographies including "The Day Diana Died" and "William and Kate: A Royal Love Story." There is "simply too much bad blood on both sides."

And even if the gesture were made, Harry and Meghan could well choose to reject it.

There's always the Diana factor

Charles' reign may well last a while, given his family's genes. Royal experts say some of the problems he is facing as he assumes the throne would likely have been skirted altogether if — and ultimately when — William became king.

William and his wife are relatively popular and seem to have "more of that majesty about them," says Gullace. "And they already seem to be grooming their son George to be a future leader."

And then there is the once and future king's connection to the late Princess Diana, who continues to hold powerful sway over public consciousness, as evidenced by her story's retelling in both Netflix's "The Crown" and the film "Spencer."

"Diana respected her mother-in-law and the institution of the monarchy," says Arbiter, who knew Diana. The Princess of Wales' family had served monarchs for years and she was proud her son would one day be king. "She was angry with Charles, for sure, but she wouldn't have wanted to see the monarchy destroyed."

That seems to be the challenge looming for the less-than-adored Charles III: keep a storied global institution going so that his popular son can one day ascend the throne. It may prove to be as deft a political feat as any monarch has been asked to pull off.

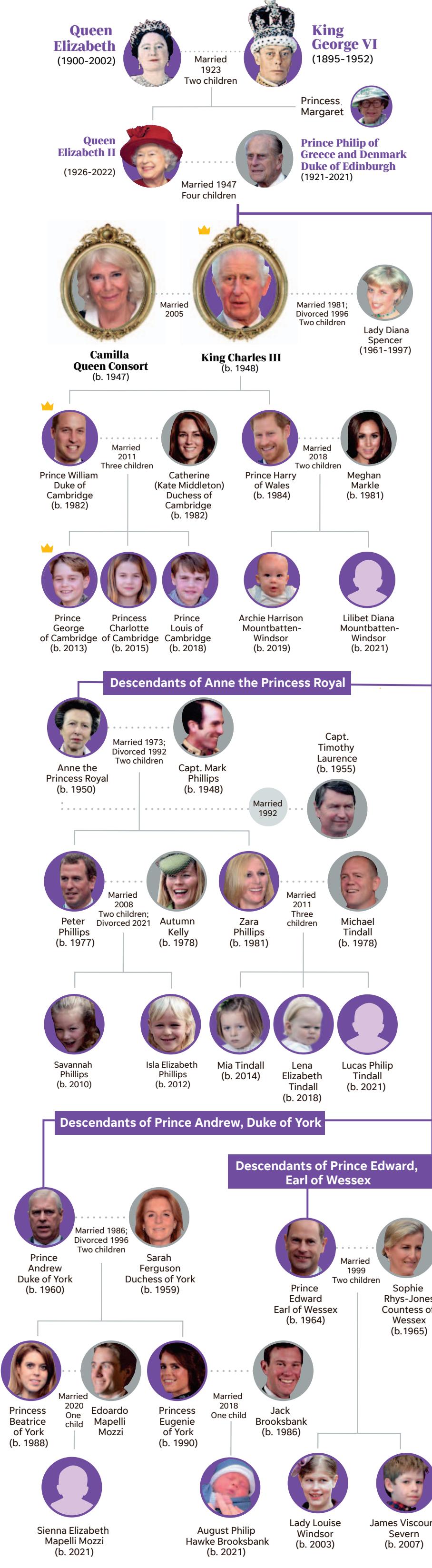
Contributing: Maria Puente

A look at the British royal family tree, spanning four generations

VERONICA BRAVO, JANET LOEHRKE, RAMON PADILLA/USA TODAY

Britain's royal family is the best known in the world and can trace its roots back nearly 1,200 years. Queen Elizabeth II, who died Thursday, has three generations of direct heirs living, a line of succession not seen since Queen Victoria's rule in the late 19th century. A look at the royal family tree:

● Born into royal family
● Likely to ascend to throne



NATION & WORLD **EXTRA**

INSIDE

South Carolina senators reject near-total abortion ban for state. **5NN**

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-2022

LONGEST-REIGNING U.K. MONARCH DIES



Queen Elizabeth II waves at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London in 2012. Elizabeth, Britain's longest-reigning monarch, died Thursday at 96 at Balmoral Castle after having steered and modernized the royal institution through seven decades of huge social change. ALASTAIR GRANT/AP, POOL, FILE

Britain's anchor through 70 years in a fast-changing world

Jill Lawless ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON – On her 21st birthday in 1947, Princess Elizabeth went on the radio and made a promise to Britain and its Commonwealth nations: She pledged that “my whole life, whether it be short or long, will be devoted to your service.” • Over her very long life, Queen Elizabeth II fulfilled that vow. • Through 15 prime ministers, from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss. Through Britain’s postwar deprivations, crippling labor unrest and Brexit. Through the messy divorces, embarrassments and scandals of her family. She endured through it all – a reassuring anchor in a fast-changing world.

The longest-reigning monarch that Britain has ever known, Elizabeth died Thursday at 96 at Balmoral Castle, her beloved summer home in Scotland, after having steered and modernized the royal institution through seven decades of huge social change.

Truss pronounced the country “devastated” and called Elizabeth “the rock on which modern Britain was built.”

Her passing ends an era, the modern Elizabethan age. Her 73-year-old son, Charles, automatically became king upon her death. He will be known as King Charles III, although his coronation might not take place for months.

Through countless public events in her 70 years as monarch, Elizabeth likely met more people than anyone in history. Her image – on stamps, coins and bank notes

– was among the most reproduced in the world.

But her inner life and opinions remained mostly an enigma. The public saw only glimpses of her personality: her joy watching horse racing at Royal Ascot or being with her beloved Welsh corgi dogs.

Yet Elizabeth had an intuitive bond with many of her subjects that seemed to strengthen over time, keeping a sense of perspective that served her well in most instances, said royal historian Robert Lacey.

“A lot of it comes from her modesty, the fact that she’s very conscious that she’s not important, that she’s there to do a job, that it’s the institution that matters,” he said.

The impact of her loss will be huge and unpredictable, both for the nation and for the monarchy, an in-

See **ELIZABETH**, Page 10NN



AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Inside

- A timeline of Elizabeth's life and 70-year reign. **13NN**
- Queen Elizabeth's most memorable quotes. **14NN**
- “A stalwart”: World leaders mourn queen's death. **14NN**

After a lifetime of preparation, Charles takes the throne

No date set yet for new king's formal coronation

Danica Kirka
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON – Prince Charles has been preparing for the crown his entire life. Now, at age 73, that moment has finally arrived.

Charles, the oldest person to ever assume the British throne, became King Charles III on Thursday following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II. No date has been set for his coronation.

After an apprenticeship that began

Inside

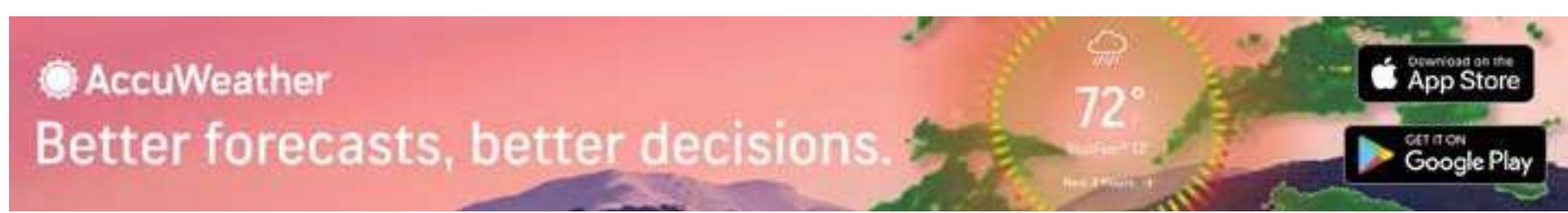
- Charles will likely scale back team to core group of royal family. **12NN**
- Camilla becomes queen, but without the sovereign's powers. **12NN**

as a child, Charles embodies the modernization of the British monarchy. He was the first heir not educated at home, the first to earn a university degree and the first to grow up in the ever-intensifying glare of the media as deference to royalty faded.

See **CHARLES**, Page 11NN

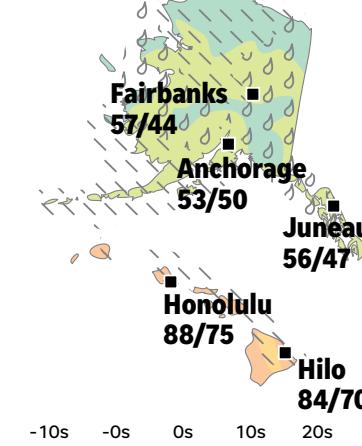


Then-Prince Charles is seated next to Queen Elizabeth II's crown at the Palace of Westminster in London on May 10. He became King Charles III on Thursday following the death of his mother. Charles will be the head of state for the U.K. and 14 other countries, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. ALASTAIR GRANT/AP, POOL, FILE



NATIONAL SUMMARY

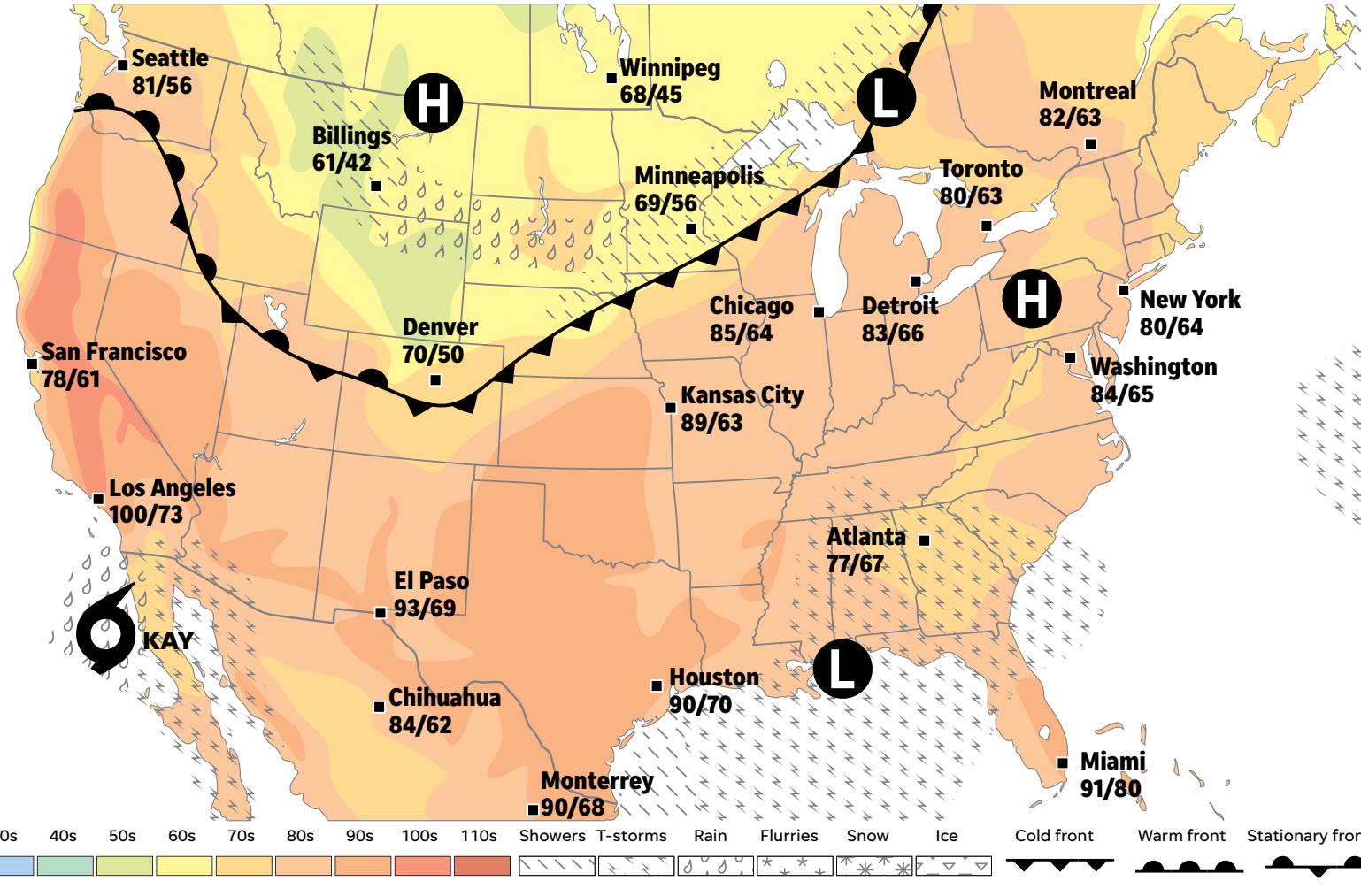
Heavy thunderstorms will raise the risk of flooding in southern portions of Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina today. Northern Florida may also have isolated instances of flooding. Meanwhile, Kay will move northward. This will bring beneficial rain to Southern California, but flooding will also be possible overnight.



-10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110s Showers T-storms Rain Flurries Snow Ice

In the digital e-edition, you can click anywhere on the US map to get up-to-date forecasts, radar, MinuteCast® and more.

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation for Friday. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



THURSDAY EXTREMES

NATIONAL (for the 48 contiguous states)

High: 113 at Fairfield, CA
Low: 31 at Bodie State Park, CA
Precip: 2.28" at Tamiami, FL

INTERNATIONAL (excludes Antarctica)

High: 116 at Diwaniya, Iraq
Low: 19 at Ylivieska, Finland
Precip: 6.06" at Impfondo, Congo

TODAY IN HISTORY

The thermometer at Washington, D.C.'s National Airport reached 90 degrees or higher for a record 60th time in 1980 by Sept. 9. Some people questioned the accuracy of the readings. Despite questions, the record stands.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: How many hurricanes have existed in the Atlantic at one time?

NATIONAL CITIES FRIDAY

	High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality		High/low/W	Air Quality
Aberdeen, SD	74/45/r	109	Evansville, IN	86/67/c	75	Levittown, PA	84/60/s	50	Rochester, NY	82/60/s	35
Abilene, TX	95/70/s	62	Fall River, MA	78/59/s	25	Lincoln, IL	81/61/s	25	Rockford, IL	83/60/s	25
Accomac, VA	79/63/s	42	Farmington, NM	93/64/s	75	Louisville, KY	88/70/pc	75	Ruidoso, NM	80/55/s	74
Adrian, MI	82/62/s	75	Fayetteville, NC	86/70/pc	35	Lubbock, TX	92/65/s	75	● Salem, OR	94/57/s	75
Akron, OH	85/65/s	25	Fond du Lac, WI	84/61/s	25	Manitowoc, WI	78/62/s	75	Salina, KS	94/60/s	66
Alamogordo, NM	92/65/pc	60	Fort Myers, FL	89/77/t	25	Mansfield, OH	82/64/pc	43	Salinas, CA	84/61/s	25
Alexandria, VA	84/63/s	46	Fort Smith, AR	90/64/s	66	● Marshall, NC	78/65/s	35	Salisbury, MD	81/62/s	38
Alliance, OH	84/64/s	25	Framingham, MA	79/56/s	25	Marshfield, WI	80/57/pc	75	San Angelo, TX	97/70/s	69
Amarillo, TX	92/62/s	75	Freeport, IL	81/58/s	25	Massillon, OH	85/64/s	25	● Sarasota, FL	86/76/t	25
Ames, IA	86/58/c	25	Fremont, OH	83/66/s	41	McLean, VA	83/62/s	46	● Savannah, GA	80/72/t	21
● Anderson, SC	79/68/t	34	● Fort Collins, CO	67/48/pc	75	Melbourne, FL	90/75/t	25	Sheboygan, WI	79/61/s	75
Appleton, WI	81/60/s	75	● Gadsden, AL	79/66/t	33	● Memphis, TN	89/72/c	40	● Shreve, NC	80/66/pc	45
● Asheville, NC	74/63/t	35	● Gainesville, FL	84/72/t	25	Middletown, NY	81/55/s	35	Sherman, TX	90/65/s	58
Ashland, OH	81/63/pc	75	Galesburg, IL	82/58/s	25	Milford, MA	78/58/s	25	Shreveport, LA	90/69/s	50
● Athens, GA	76/67/t	33	● Gastonia, NC	82/67/pc	45	Milwaukee, WI	82/65/s	75	Silver City, NM	86/61/pc	59
● Augusta, GA	76/70/t	24	Glen Rose, TX	91/67/s	58	Monroe, MI	80/65/s	75	Sioux Falls, SD	66/51/sh	82
Austin, TX	92/69/s	75	● Gonzales, LA	84/70/t	48	● Monroe, LA	89/70/pc	43	Somerset, PA	78/58/s	43
Bartlesville, OK	91/60/s	60	Great Falls, MT	55/36/s	33	● Montgomery, AL	81/71/t	35	Somerville, NJ	83/54/s	50
Battle Creek, MI	83/64/s	25	Green Bay, WI	84/62/s	75	Muncie, IN	85/66/pc	50	South Bend, IN	85/64/s	75
Bedford, IN	85/65/pc	52	● Greenville, SC	80/67/t	34	● Murfreesboro, TN	86/68/t	44	● Spartanburg, SC	81/67/sh	34
Binghamton, NY	78/56/s	44	Hackensack, NJ	82/61/s	40	Naples, FL	88/77/t	25	Springfield, IL	82/61/s	25
● Bluffton, SC	79/75/t	23	Hagerstown, MD	82/59/s	36	● Nashville, TN	87/68/t	44	Springfield, MO	84/60/s	64
Bremerton, WA	81/55/s	57	● Hattiesburg, MS	82/69/t	45	Neptune, NJ	76/61/s	45	● St. Augustine, FL	84/77/t	25
Brockton, MA	77/57/s	25	Henderson, KY	85/66/c	75	New Bedford, MA	78/56/s	25	St. Cloud, MN	63/49/r	60
Brownwood, TX	94/68/s	69	● Hendersonville, NC	75/64/t	35	New Bern, NC	84/70/pc	35	St. George, UT	95/72/pc	52
Burlington, IA	85/60/s	53	Herkimer, NY	82/57/s	30	New Philadelphia, OH	83/62/s	25	Staunton, VA	80/54/pc	35
Burlington, NC	83/65/s	35	Hillsdale, MI	79/63/s	36	Newark, OH	83/63/pc	61	Stevens Point, WI	82/59/pc	75
Burlington, VT	83/62/s	40	Holland, MI	81/64/s	25	Newton, NJ	83/56/s	50	Stockton, CA	107/65/s	84
Cambridge, OH	83/63/pc	40	Hornell, NY	81/59/s	32	New York, NY	80/64/s	40	Stroudsburg, PA	82/55/s	50
Camdenton, MO	83/60/s	58	● Houma, LA	84/70/t	42	Norwich, CT	79/58/s	38	Stuart, FL	90/76/t	25
Canandaigua, NY	81/62/s	44	Howell, MI	82/64/s	75	Ocala, FL	85/73/t	25	Sturgis, MI	80/63/s	25
Canton, OH	85/64/s	25	Hutchinson, KS	94/60/s	64	Oklahoma City, OK	90/64/s	70	● Tallahassee, FL	80/73/t	25
Carlsbad, NM	94/67/s	86	Hyannis, MA	74/61/s	25	● Opelousas, LA	86/70/t	42	● Thibodaux, LA	83/70/t	42
Chambersburg, PA	82/59/s	36	Indianapolis, IN	85/67/pc	75	Oshkosh, WI	83/61/s	25	Topeka, KS	92/62/s	60
Cherry Hill, NJ	84/61/s	50	Iowa City, IA	87/60/s	56	Palm Beach, FL	90/81/t	25	● Tuscaloosa, AL	81/70/t	43
Cincinnati, OH	84/68/pc	52	Ithaca, NY	80/57/s	44	● Palm Springs, CA	87/73/r	44	Utica, NY	81/56/s	33
● Clarksville, TN	85/68/t	49	● Jackson, MS	83/69/t	45	● Panama City, FL	82/75/t	25	Ventura, CA	86/69/c	67
Coldwater, MI	80/62/s	25	● Jackson, TN	84/68/t	58	Pekin, IL	83/62/s	25	● Victorville, CA	92/67/pc	50
Columbus, OH	84/66/pc	61	● Jacksonville, FL	84/73/t	25	● Pensacola, FL	84/74/t	25	Vineland, NJ	83/59/s	40
Corning, NY	82/55/s	31	Jacksonville, NC	84/70/pc	35	Peoria, IL	85/62/s	25	Visalia, CA	104/77/pc	103
Corpus Christi, TX	91/74/s	25	Kent, OH	84/64/pc	75	Petersburg, VA	84/62/pc	32	Washington, DC	84/65/s	46
Daytona Beach, FL	89/75/t	25	Kewanee, IL	83/59/s	25	● Phoenix, AZ	94/77/t	58	Watertown, SD	65/46/r	113
Deming, NM	90/65/pc	56	Keyser, WV	83/56/s	37	Port Huron, MI	82/60/s	43	Wausau, WI	82/60/pc	75
DeRidder, LA	89/68/s	50	Kinston, NC	84/67/pc	35	Portsmouth, NH	76/57/s	25	Waynesboro, PA	82/60/s	36
Des Moines, IA	88/60/s	25	● Knoxville, TN	85/66/c	43	Quincy, MA	75/63/s	25	White Plains, NY	79/60/s	36
Detroit, MI	83/66/s	75	Lafayette, IN	85/62/s	52	Redding, CA	112/68/s	67	Wichita Falls, TX	93/65/s	60
Devils Lake, ND	68/46/pc	21	● Lafayette, LA	87/70/t	42	Reno, NV	95/61/s	75	Wilmington, DE	83/61/s	50
Dover, NH	79/58/s	25	Lakeland, FL	86/76/t	25	Rivard, OH	84/63/pc	75	Wilmington, NC	84/72/pc	35
El Paso, TX	93/69/pc	75	Lansing, MI	83/64/s	25	Rome	85/69/t	48	Wisconsin Rapids, WI	82/60/pc	75
Elmira, NY	82/54/s	33	Las Cruces, NM	90/65/pc	75	● San Jose	75/66/sh	78/66/t	Wooster, OH	81/60/pc	25
Erie, PA	80/65/s	43	Lebanon, PA	83/57/s	58	● San Salvador	80/69/r	83/69/t	Worcester, MA	76/59/s	25
Eugene, OR	97/54/s	75	Leesburg, FL	87/75/t	25	● Santiago	67/39/s	67/41/s	York, PA	83/58/s	58

Air Quality Index: 0-50, Good; 51-100, Moderate; 101-150, Unhealthy for sensitive groups; 151-200, Unhealthy; 201-300, Very unhealthy; 301-500, Hazardous

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

	Friday High/low/W	Saturday High/low/W		Friday High/low/W	Saturday High/low/W		Friday High/low/W	Saturday High/low/W

US ready to appeal in Trump probe

Justice Dept. wants to continue investigating

Eric Tucker
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – The Justice Department is preparing to appeal a judge's decision granting the appointment of an independent arbiter to review records seized in a criminal investigation by the FBI from former President Donald Trump's Florida home.

Citing national security concerns and other factors, the department also asked U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon to put on hold her directive prohibiting it from using the seized classified records for investigative purposes while it contests her ruling.

"Without a stay, the government and public also will suffer irreparable harm from the undue delay to the criminal investigation," department lawyers said in a motion Thursday in which they announced their intent to appeal the order to the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The 21-page Justice Department filing lays bare the government's concern

about the impact it believes will be caused by the judge's order, which temporarily halted core aspects of its criminal investigation, and its continued objections to the planned appointment of a "special master" to conduct an independent review of the records taken from Mar-a-Lago. Already, the department said, the intelligence community has paused its separate risk assessment that the judge had permitted to continue because of "uncertainty regarding the bounds of the Court's order."

The department gave the judge until next Thursday to stay her original order, saying it would otherwise ask the federal appeals court to do so. Though such an appeal will almost certainly result in further delays to its underlying investi-



The Justice Department has been investigating what it says was the unlawful retention of national defense information at former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Fla. PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP FILE

gation, the department made clear throughout its motion its belief that it would be "injured" beyond repair if the judge's order was permitted to stand.

The judge gave the Trump team until Monday morning to respond to the Justice Department motion.

The FBI has been investigating for months what it says was the unlawful retention of national defense information at Mar-a-Lago as well as efforts to obstruct the probe. It is not clear whether Trump or anyone else will face charges.

Reacting to Thursday's motion, Trump renewed his attacks on the entire investigation.

"So now the FBI and Biden Department of Justice' leakers are going to spend Millions of Dollars, & vast amounts of Time and Energy, to appeal the order on the 'Raid of Mar-a-Lago document hoax,'" he wrote on his Truth Social platform.

The FBI seized more than 100 documents with classified markings, includ-

ing some designated top-secret, during an Aug. 8 search of the property. Those records have been segregated from the thousands of non-classified documents that were taken, the department said.

The Trump legal team had asked the judge, a Trump appointee, to name a special master – in many cases, a lawyer or retired judge – to examine the seized documents to ensure that personal materials are returned to him and that any privileged records are weeded out from the rest of the investigation.

In a procedural win for the ex-president, Cannon granted that request, agreeing to appoint an arbiter to inspect the records and filter out any that may be protected by claims not only of attorney-client privilege but executive privilege too. She also directed the FBI to temporarily stop using those documents in its investigation until a report from the special master or "further court order."

Though she did permit the intelligence community to do an assessment

of the damage caused by the improper retention of classified secrets, that work has been paused in consultation with the Justice Department. The FBI's chief counterintelligence official, Alan E. Kohler Jr., said in a declaration accompanying the court filing that the classification review and national security risk assessment were "inextricably linked with the criminal investigation."

On Thursday, the Justice Department lambasted anew the idea that any of the classified records could be protected by such claims, or that Trump could be entitled to the return of any government documents since he is no longer president.

It also asked the judge to lift her directive that highly classified records be shared with a special master.

"The classification markings establish on the face of the documents that they are government records, not Plaintiff's personal records. The government's review of those records does not raise any plausible attorney-client privilege claims because such classified records do not contain communications between Plaintiff and his private attorneys," the motion said.

It adds that "no potential assertion of executive privilege could justify restricting the Executive Branch's review and use of the classified records at issue here."

The judge's ruling carries the prospect of substantially delaying the criminal investigation though it seems unlikely to have significant long-term effects that would take the probe off course. The department, for instance, said it did not interpret the order as a prohibition against interviewing witnesses about how the records were relocated from the White House to Mar-a-Lago or how they were stored – suggesting that at least that investigative work would continue. Nor did it think there was a bar against the department from briefing members of Congress.

Bannon pleads not guilty in scheme

Trump ally accused in 'We Build the Wall' fraud

Michael R. Sisak
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK – Former President Donald Trump's longtime ally Steve Bannon pleaded not guilty Thursday to duping donors who gave money to build a wall on the U.S. southern border. The case, brought by New York prosecutors, is a state-level reboot of a federal case cut short last year by a presidential pardon.

Bannon, 68, was released after his arraignment on money laundering, conspiracy, fraud and other charges related to the "We Build the Wall" campaign. He is the second person pardoned by Trump and later charged by the Manhattan district attorney's office for the same alleged conduct.

"It's all nonsense. They will never shut me up," Bannon said as he left court.

Manhattan prosecutors working in conjunction with the state attorney general's office say that although Bannon promised all donations would go to constructing the wall, he was involved in transferring hundreds of thousands of dollars to third-party entities and used them to funnel payments to two other people involved in the scheme.

The indictment didn't identify those people by name, but the details match those of Brian Kolfage and Andrew Badolato, who pleaded guilty to federal charges in April.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said that after Bannon was pardoned, Manhattan prosecutors decided they had to hold him accountable because the alleged scheme ripped off hundreds of Manhattan residents. The top charge against Bannon carries a maximum sentence of five to 15 years in prison.

"The simple truth is: It is a crime to profit off the backs of donors by making false pretenses," Bragg said at a news conference.

Bannon's New York charges stem from the same alleged conduct as an attempted federal prosecution that ended abruptly, before trial, when Trump pardoned Bannon on his last day in office. Manhattan prosecutors also charged WeBuildTheWall, Inc., the nonprofit entity that Bannon and his former co-defendants used to solicit donations. The company pleaded not guilty Thursday.

Presidential pardons apply only to federal crimes, not state offenses. Last



Former White House strategist Steve Bannon is escorted to a courtroom in New York after surrendering to authorities Thursday. EDUARDO MUÑOZ ALVAREZ/AP

year, the Manhattan district attorney's office charged Ken Kurson, a friend of Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, with cyberstalking months after Trump pardoned him in a similar federal case. Like Bannon, Kurson was pardoned early in his federal case, before acquittal or conviction, negating any double jeopardy argument.

Arriving at the Manhattan district attorney's office shortly after 9 a.m. Thursday,

Bannon said it was "an irony" that New York City's mayor has been objecting to busloads of migrants sent to the city from Texas while prosecutors "are persecuting people here, that try to stop them at the border."

Bannon accused Bragg of pursuing "phony charges" against him, saying the Democratic prosecutor targeted him ahead of November's midterm elections because he and his radio show are popular among Trump's Republican supporters.

He claimed federal prosecutors had the same intent when he was first charged in August of 2020 ahead of the presidential election.

But New York Attorney General Letitia James said it was about holding "powerful political interests" to account.

"They think they are above the law. And the most egregious of them take advantage of hardworking Americans in the process. Steve Bannon stands out as a perfect example of this blatant inequality," said James, a Democrat.

In 2020, federal agents pulled Bannon from a luxury yacht off the Connecticut coast and arrested him on charges he pocketed more than \$1 mil-

lion in donations to the wall-building effort. In all, more than \$25 million was raised, prosecutors said.

In that case, federal prosecutors alleged Bannon and his co-defendants capitalized on public fervor over border security – a pillar of Trump's presidential campaign – and tricked thousands of people into thinking 100% of their donations would go to building a wall along the 1,933-mile U.S.-Mexico line.

Instead, according to federal prosecutors, Bannon used some of the money to pay personal expenses for himself and a secret salary to Kolfage, a "We Build the Wall" co-founder.

"All the money you give goes to building the wall," Bannon told donors at a June 2019 fundraising event, according to the New York indictment unsealed Thursday. Kolfage, who is not charged in the state case, repeatedly pledged: "I won't take a penny from these donations, not a penny," the indictment said.

Charitable organizations are allowed to pay their executives, sometimes handsomely, but must disclose that compensation in documents available to the public.

Bannon, who had pleaded not guilty to the federal charges, was dropped from the federal case when Trump pardoned him.

Kolfage, a U.S. Air Force veteran who lost both legs in a mortar attack in Iraq, and Badolato, a Florida financier, had been scheduled to be sentenced this week, but that was recently postponed to December. A third defendant's trial ended in a mistrial in June after jurors said they could not reach a unanimous verdict.

Biden undoes Trump-era immigration standard

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK – The Biden administration has officially undone a Trump-era rule that barred immigrants from gaining legal residency if they had utilized certain government benefits, allowing for a return to a previous policy with a narrower scope.

The Department of Homeland Security on Thursday said a new regulation for the "public charge" rule would go into effect in late December, although the Biden administration had already stopped applying the previous version last year.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said in a statement that the shift "ensures fair and humane treatment."

"Consistent with America's bedrock values, we will not penalize individuals for choosing to access the health benefits and other supplemental government services available to them," he said.

The public charge regulation bars people from getting green cards if they would be burdens to the United States. For years prior to the Trump administration, that was interpreted as being primarily dependent on cash assistance, income maintenance or government support for long-term institutionalization.

But the Trump administration expanded the benefits to include non-cash assistance including food stamps and Medicaid. There were numerous legal challenges, but it was allowed to be implemented in 2020. Legal challenges went on, and in 2021, the Biden administration said it would not continue defending the rule.

Thursday's announcement was welcomed by immigrant advocates, who said the Trump administration's expanded rule had created a hard atmosphere for those seeking legal residency.

"The public charge regulation caused such fear among immigrants who sought to legally apply for a green card that many chose to forego health care and vital economic support," American Immigration Lawyers Association President Jeremy McKinney said in a statement.

"These changes to simplify and de-mystify the rule will truly change lives across our nation."

Hunt shuts down most of Memphis

Suspected gunman was arrested after killing 4

Adrian Sainz
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Two college campuses locked down. City buses stopped running. A baseball stadium halted a game, and frightened residents stayed indoors as a gunman spent hours cruising around Memphis and shooting people, apparently at random.

Authorities said the assailant suspected of killing four people and wounding three livestreamed some of the carnage using his cellphone. He was arrested late Wednesday after crashing a stolen car while fleeing police.

The violence unfolded just a few months after 19-year-old Ezekiel Kelly was released early from a three-year prison sentence for a pair of shootings in 2020. Now he's charged with first-degree murder.

The bloodshed played out as the city was still reeling from the brutal killing of a jogger who was abducted during her early morning run less than a week earlier.

"This has been a horrific week for the city of Memphis," Police Director Cerylyn "CJ" Davis said.

Authorities offered no explanation Thursday of a possible motive. Nor did they say how Kelly managed to obtain the gun or guns used in the attacks.

The shootings shut down much of the city, and police warned people to shelter in place. The minor-league Memphis Redbirds cleared the field during a game. Friends and relatives frantically called and texted each other, and TV stations cut into regular programming with updates.

Police said the first victim was killed more than 15 hours before the other shootings occurred.

Just before 1 a.m. Wednesday, at least three witnesses saw Kelly fatally shoot Dewayne Tunstall in the head outside a home in east Memphis, according to a police affidavit. It said Kelly pulled Tunstall to the side, then during their conversation drew a handgun and fired several shots.



A remnant of crime scene tape hangs on a fence Thursday in Memphis, Tenn., where a gunman was arrested after killing four and wounding three others in seemingly random attacks. JOHN AMIS/AP

Marcus Cash, a close friend and business partner of Tunstall's, came running after he heard the gunshots from his home. One round pierced the window of his child's bedroom.

When he saw Tunstall's body, he laid down in anguish beside the man who had been like a brother. Cash said he was so distraught that police held him as a precaution for several hours to give him time to calm down.

Asked what he told police, Cash said: "You all better catch him before I do."

The second shooting came hours later at about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, when officers found a man dead from multiple gunshot wounds inside a vehicle, according to police. A woman who had been shot in the leg was discovered minutes later, still alive.

More shootings were reported over the next 4½ hours. During that time, police received a tip at about 6 p.m. that the suspect was livestreaming himself and threatening to hurt people, Davis said.

In one clip from the video, the suspect casually speaks to the camera before opening the door to an AutoZone store and shooting someone inside with what appeared to be a pistol. That man

was taken to a hospital in critical condition.

In another, a man narrates himself driving – "green light, green light" – and sings "no faking." At one point, he fires two rapid bursts of gunfire from the driver's window. Referring to police, he says he's going to "go down to the valley, shoot it out with them in the valley."

Three more shootings and two carjackings followed after police sent an alert warning people to be on the lookout for the suspect.

Police said Kelly killed a woman as he took her SUV, then shot and wounded a man nearby. The final victim, another woman, was found dead about an hour later, just before 9 p.m.

Kelly drove across the state line into neighboring Southaven, Mississippi, where he committed another carjacking at gunpoint but left the driver uninjured, police said.

Officers quickly spotted the stolen Dodge Challenger on Interstate 55. Kelly was arrested after he crashed during a high-speed chase, Davis said. Two guns were found in the vehicle.

It was not immediately known Thursday whether Kelly had an attorney.



Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland speaks at a news conference Thursday. MARK WEBER/DAILY MEMPHIAN VIA AP

One of the gunman's victims, Allison Parker, was a medical assistant with three children, said Debbie Holland, Parker's mother-in-law. Holland said her grandchildren now have no parents, since their father died a couple of years ago.

"She was beautiful, intelligent, kind-hearted, giving – she would help anybody who asked," Holland said of Parker. "She didn't deserve to die at the hands of this monster."

Facebook parent company Meta said Thursday that it removed the suspect's livestream before Memphis police sent their initial alert, but the company declined to say for how long the live video was streaming. The company said it also removed the suspect's Facebook account and has continuously removed content such as copies of the video or messages praising the attack.

Mayor Jim Strickland told reporters he was outraged that Kelly had been released early from prison in March after pleading guilty last year to aggravated assault charges.

"This is no way for us to live, and it is not acceptable," said Strickland, who later pounded the podium as he demanded accountability.

Prosecutor: Official's DNA in slain reporter's fingernails

Man accused of murder didn't like news reports

Ken Ritter
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS – The DNA of a jailed elected official who was angered by past and upcoming newspaper stories was found on the hands of a Las Vegas investigative reporter who fought for his life while being stabbed to death outside his home, authorities said Thursday.

County Public Administrator Robert Telles stood handcuffed in court with bandages on his wrists and police officers at his elbows while a prosecutor told a judge that Las Vegas Review-Journal reporter Jeff German's death was a planned attack by an assailant who left his own cellphone at home and waited in a vehicle outside German's home.

"The published articles regarding a public figure, the public administrator's office, ruined his political career, likely his marriage, and this was him lashing out at the cause," Chief Deputy Clark County District Attorney Richard Scow said of Telles.

Scow said German was stabbed seven times. His body was found Saturday.

Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Elana Lee Graham called a police report detailing the attack "chilling," including the discovery of wounds on German's arms and DNA believed to be from Telles in German's fingernails.

"He was fighting for his life," the judge said of the 69-year-old longtime journalist. "It appears from this report that Mr. Telles was waiting ... and called (German) over to the side of his own home."

Graham ordered Telles, 45, jailed without bail pending arraignment next Tuesday on a murder charge.

Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson called German's death "brutal and meaningless" and the case against Telles important for the community. Wolfson said a decision about whether to seek the death penalty will be made in coming months.

Earlier Thursday, police officials described Telles' arrest late Wednesday after a brief police standoff at his home.

Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo said Telles was hospitalized for what the sheriff called "self-inflicted" wounds,



Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo speaks at a news conference in Las Vegas Thursday on the arrest of Clark County Public Administrator Robert Telles in the fatal stabbing of reporter Jeff German. JOHN LOCHER/AP

hours after investigators served a search warrant and confiscated vehicles in the criminal probe of German's killing.

Telles had been a focus of German's reporting about turmoil, including complaints of administrative bullying, favoritism and Telles' relationship with a subordinate staffer in the county office that handles property of people who die without a will or family contacts. Telles, a Democrat, went on to lose his bid for reelection in the June primary.

"This has been an unusual case from the beginning," Lombardo told reporters at a news conference, "the murder of an investigative journalist, and the main suspect an elected official here in Clark County."

Lombardo is the elected head of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and is running as a Republican for governor. He said Telles was quickly identified as a suspect with the help of media, including the Review-Journal.

"Every murder is tragic. But the killing of a journalist is particularly troublesome," Lombardo said.

Telles was identified early in the investigation as a person "upset about articles that were being written by German, as an investigative journalist, that exposed potential wrongdoing," Las Vegas Police Capt. Dori Koren said.

"Telles had publicly expressed his issues with that reporting," Koren said. "We found out later there was additional reporting that was pending."

In addition to Telles' suspected DNA at the crime scene, Koren said investigators serving a search warrant at Telles' home found shoes and a distinctive wide straw hat.

Koren said the items matched those worn by a person captured on security camera video wearing a blaze orange shirt and walking toward German's home. He showed photos of the shoes and the hat and said they had been cut up.

A murder weapon has not been found, but Lombardo said police have "distorted" video that shows the attack. He said investigators were attempting to enhance it.

Investigators said a distinctive maroon GMC Yukon Denali SUV was seen driving around German's neighborhood Sept. 2, the morning of the killing, stopping several times. That vehicle, registered to Telles' wife, departed Telles' home around 9 a.m. and returned around noon, Koren said.

Police believe German was attacked about 11:15 a.m., and his garage door was open.

Telles was questioned by police Wednesday and then returned home,

where he ignored reporters' questions as he entered and did not respond to officers at his door until SWAT units and an ambulance arrived in the evening.

German joined the Review-Journal in 2010 after more than two decades at the Las Vegas Sun, where he was a columnist and reporter who covered courts, politics, labor, government and organized crime.

In a statement, German's family called him "a loving and loyal brother, uncle and friend who devoted his life to his work exposing wrongdoing in Las Vegas and beyond."

"We're shocked, saddened and angry about his death," the statement said. "Jeff was committed to seeking justice for others and would appreciate the hard work by local police and journalists in pursuing his killer. We look forward to seeing justice done in this case."

Glenn Cook, executive editor of the Review-Journal, said the newsroom had mixed emotions following Telles' arrest.

"We are relieved Robert Telles is in custody and outraged that a colleague appears to have been killed for reporting on an elected official," the statement said. "Journalists can't do the important work our communities require if they are afraid a presentation of facts could lead to violent retribution."

"Hopefully, the Review-Journal, the German family and Jeff's many friends can begin the process of mourning and honoring a great man and a brave reporter," it said.

Telles, a lawyer who practiced probate and estate law, won his elected position in 2018, replacing a three-term public administrator. He lost his June party primary to Assistant Public Administrator Rita Reid, who faces a Republican challenger in November. Telles' term expires Dec. 31.

Clark County officials said Thursday that Telles was suspended and banned from county offices or property pending a review of his position as an elected official.

"County employees of the administrator's office are currently working from home, and the office will remain closed until a determination is made about when it can reopen," the statement said.

German, widely known and respected for his tenacity, was working on follow-up reports, the newspaper said Wednesday.

SC senators reject abortion ban

5 Republicans, all Dems refuse to back measure

Jeffrey Collins
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina senators rejected a ban on almost all abortions Thursday in a special session called in the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade after five Republicans, including all the chamber's women, refused to support it.

The 30 Republicans in the 46-member chamber had a majority to pass the ban, but did not have the extra votes to end a threatened filibuster by Republican Sen. Tom Davis.

Davis, the chief of staff for former Gov. Mark Sanford before being elected to the Senate in 2009, was joined by the three Republican women in the Senate, a fifth GOP colleague and all Democratic senators to oppose the proposed ban.

Davis said he promised his daughters he would not vote to make South Carolina's current six-week abortion ban stricter because women have rights, too.

"The moment we become pregnant we lost all control over what goes on with our bodies," Davis said, recalling what his daughters told him. "I'm here to tell you I'm not going to let it happen."

After a recess to work through their options, Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey conceded the abortion ban likely couldn't pass.

"We were never going to pass a total abortion ban," Massey said. "We never had the votes to pass even what the House passed."

Senators did pass a few changes to the six-week ban, including cutting the time that victims of rape and incest who



Republican state Sen. Tom Davis opposes a blanket ban on abortions in South Carolina and said he would argue against the bill until the 46-member Senate mustered the 26 votes required to end the filibuster. JEFFREY COLLINS/AP

become pregnant can seek an abortion from 20 weeks to about 12 weeks and requiring that DNA from the aborted fetus be collected for police.

The bill goes back to the House, which passed a ban with exceptions for rape or incest.

South Carolina's six-week ban is currently suspended as the state Supreme Court reviews whether it violates privacy rights. In the meantime, the state's 2016 ban on abortions 20 weeks after conception is in effect.

South Carolina's General Assembly was meeting in a special session to try to join more than a dozen other states with abortion bans.

Most of them came through so-called trigger laws designed to outlaw most abortions when the U.S. Supreme Court

threw out the constitutional right to end a pregnancy in June. Indiana's Legislature passed a new ban last month that has not taken effect.

The debate started Wednesday with the three Republican women in the South Carolina Senate speaking back to back, saying they couldn't support the bill unless the rape or incest exceptions were restored.

Sen. Katrina Shealy said the 41 men in the Senate would be better off listening to their wives, daughters, mothers, granddaughters and looking at the faces of the girls in Sunday School classes at their churches.

"You want to believe that God is wanting you to push a bill through with no exceptions that kill mothers and ruins the lives of children — lets mothers

bring home babies to bury them — then I think you're miscommunicating with God. Or maybe you aren't communicating with Him at all," Shealy said before senators added a proposal allowing abortions if a fetus cannot survive outside the womb.

Massey helped broker the compromise among Republicans that briefly returned the exceptions to the bill.

He pointed out state health officials recorded about 3,000 abortions in 2021 within the first six weeks of a pregnancy.

"Heartbeat is great, but this I think is better," Massey said. "I don't think abortion should be used as birth control."

Senate Minority Leader Brad Hutto said Republican women stood up for all women in South Carolina, while Republican men let them down. He said Democrats didn't want any changes to current laws.

"There may be a sentiment that this is the same as what we already had. It's not. It's worse in many regards," Hutto said.

Republican Gov. Henry McMaster, who has said before he would be happy if there were no abortions in the state, thought the Senate version struck an appropriate balance, governor's spokesman Brian Symmes said.

"It is the governor's hope that the House and Senate will soon come to an agreement and send a bill to his desk for signature," Symmes said.

Republican Sen. Sandy Senn, who didn't vote for the six-week ban in 2021, said a total ban would be an invasion of the privacy against every woman in the state.

"If what is going on in my vagina isn't an unreasonable invasion of privacy for this legislature to get involved in, I don't know what is," Senn said.



Matthew DePerno, Republican candidate for Michigan attorney general, built his political reputation by pushing former President Donald Trump's unsubstantiated election fraud claims. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS, FILE

Special prosecutor to probe candidate

Joey Cappelletti and Sara Burnett
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LANSING, Mich. — A special prosecutor in Michigan has been appointed to investigate whether the Republican candidate for attorney general and others should be criminally charged for their attempts to gain access to voting machines after the 2020 election.

The office of Democratic Attorney General Dana Nessel last month asked the Prosecuting Attorneys Coordinating Council, a state agency, to consider charges against nine people, including Republican Matthew DePerno, her opponent in the November election. Nessel's office cited a potential conflict of interest because of the upcoming election.

The executive director of the council on Thursday said D.J. Hilson, the prosecuting attorney in Muskegon County, would handle the case. Hilson, a Democrat, was first elected to office in 2012.

In a statement, DePerno accused Nessel of "once again weaponizing her office using your tax dollars to harass and persecute her political opponents." The Kalamazoo attorney has previously said that "90% of the facts that (Nessel) lays out, that she calls facts in her petition, are either false or I have no knowledge of what she's talking about."

DePerno and the others named in the Michigan documents are among the people nationwide who are facing legal implications for embracing former President Donald Trump's lie that the 2020 election was stolen. A Colorado

county clerk this week pleaded not guilty to charges she allowed an unauthorized person to break into her county's election system in search of proof of Trump's conspiracy theories.

DePerno built his political reputation — and snagged an early endorsement from Trump — by pushing Trump's unsubstantiated election fraud claims.

Trump lost the election in Michigan by some 154,000 votes, an outcome that has been upheld by multiple investigations, including one by the GOP-led state Senate.

DePerno won state party members' nomination for attorney general over a former Michigan House speaker who narrowly lost to Nessel in 2018.

Allegations made public last month named DePerno as one of the "prime instigators" of a plan to get improper access to voting machines and use them to dispute the 2020 presidential outcome.

According to documents released by Nessel's office, five vote tabulators were taken from Roscommon and Missaukee counties in northern Michigan, and Barry County in western Michigan. Investigators found others in the group broke into the tabulators and performed "tests" on the equipment.

"It was determined during the investigation that DePerno was present at a hotel room during such 'testing,'" a petition to the prosecutors' council said.

Obtaining undue possession of a voting machine used in an election is a felony punishable by five years in prison.

Michigan's high court puts abortion question on ballot

State's voters to decide whether to protect rights

Joey Cappelletti, Sara Burnett and Ed White
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LANSING, Mich. — Voters will determine whether to place abortion rights in the Michigan Constitution, the state Supreme Court declared Thursday, settling the issue a day before the fall ballot must be completed.

Abortion rights would be guaranteed if the amendment passes on Nov. 8. A 1931 state law makes it a crime to perform most abortions, but the law was suspended in May and a judge this week followed up by striking it down as unconstitutional. Though appeals of that decision are likely, the law would be trumped if voters approve the amendment in the fall election.

There are political implications beyond the ballot question.

Democrats say the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade is mobilizing voters and will help Democratic candidates this fall, when top races including governor, secretary of state and attorney general are on the Michigan ballot. They point to conservative Kansas, where voters overwhelmingly defeated a measure that would have allowed the Republican-controlled Legislature to tighten restrictions or ban the procedure outright.

In Michigan, a state elections board on Aug. 31 deadlocked along party lines on whether the abortion initiative should appear on the ballot, with Republicans voting no and Democrats voting yes. The 2-2 tie meant the measure wasn't certified for the ballot.

Supporters submitted more than 700,000 signatures, easily clearing the minimum threshold. But Republicans and abortion opponents argued the petitions had improper or no spacing between certain words and were confusing to voters.

"What a sad marker of the times," Chief Justice Bridget McCormack said in a brief statement that accompanied the Supreme Court's 5-2 order.

McCormack said "there is no dispute" that every word was legible and in the correct order.

Republican members of the Board of State Canvassers "would disenfranchise millions of Michiganders not be-

cause they believe the many thousands of Michiganders who signed the proposal were confused by it, but because they think they have identified a technicality that allows them to do so, a game of gotcha gone very bad," McCormack said.

The majority was made up of McCormack, three other Democratic justices and a Republican justice. Two Republicans dissented.

The court directed state canvassers, who meet again Friday, to sign off on the ballot question. Tony Daunt, a Republican who had voted against the proposal, last week said that the board would obey a court order.

Attorney General Dana Nessel, a Democrat who supports abortion rights, hailed the decision.

"Our state Constitution provides the people with direct access to the democratic process and that access should not be limited by appointed individuals acting beyond the scope of their duty," Nessel said.

A group called Citizens to Support MI Women and Children said it will campaign against the amendment. Right to Life of Michigan also will be a major opponent.

"Current events continue showing us that any nation that sees the next generation as an existential threat — rather than an existential necessity — has no future," Right to Life said on Facebook.

There was no immediate comment from Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who is in favor of the ballot question and is seeking reelection. Her Republican opponent, Tudor Dixon, opposes abortion rights except to save the life of the mother.

Results of a poll published this week by The Detroit News and WDIV-TV showed abortion and women's rights was the top issue motivating Michigan residents to vote in November, ahead of inflation and cost of living, education, and the economy and jobs. The poll also showed a majority of likely voters support a proposed constitutional amendment guaranteeing abortion rights.

In a dissent, Justice Brian Zahra said supporters of the abortion question did not have a "clear legal right" to the ballot.

"Words separated by spaces cease being words or become new words when the spaces between them are removed," Zahra said.

BUSINESS

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE
+193.24 Closing: 31,774.52
 Change: +.6% YTD % Chg: -12.6%

MARKET PERFORMANCE BY SECTOR
 Sector Close Chg. 4wk¹ YTD¹
 Energy 78.64 +0.34 +1.0% +41.7%
 Utilities 77.07 -0.06 +2.1% +7.7%
 Consumer staples 73.26 -0.19 -2.1% -5.0%
 Health care 129.36 +2.21 -1.9% -8.2%
 Industrials 94.07 +0.28 -4.4% -11.1%
 Financials 34.05 +0.59 -2.7% -12.8%
 Materials 76.91 +0.74 -3.4% -15.1%
 Consumer discret. 161.42 +1.49 -2.8% -21.0%
 Technology 134.54 +0.46 -8.9% -22.6%
 Telecom 58.68 -0.33 -7.6% -28.6%

S&P 500'S BIGGEST GAINERS
 Company (ticker) Price \$ Chg. % Chg. YTD
 Regeneron Pharm (REGN) 708.85 +112.41 +18.8% +12.2%
 Freeport McMoran (FCX) 30.62 +2.24 +7.9% -26.6%
 Invesco Ltd (IVZ) 17.36 +.79 +4.8% -24.6%
 Moderna Inc (MRNA) 141.28 +6.38 +4.7% -44.4%
 On Semiconductor (ON) 70.55 +3.19 +4.7% +3.9%

S&P 500 • STANDARD & POOR'S
+26.31 Closing: 4,006.18
 Change: +.7% YTD % Chg: -16.0%

MARKET NOTEBOOK

Issues	NYSE	NASDAQ
Advancing	1,412	2,138
Declining	1,006	1,295
Unchanged	86	280
Total	2,504	3,713

Issues at

New 52 Week High	19	24
New 52 Week Low	59	142
Share Volume		
Total	3,760,352,858	4,106,348,444
Advancing	2,620,407,246	2,653,175,694
Declining	1,068,439,316	1,412,552,762
Unchanged	71,506,296	40,619,988

S&P 500'S BIGGEST LOSERS

Company (ticker)	Price	\$ Chg.	% Chg.	YTD
McCormick & Co (MKC)	79.30	-.570	-6.7	-17.9%
Kraft Heinz Co (KHC)	36.06	-1.26	-3.4	+.4
Campbell Soup (CPB)	47.84	-1.47	-3.0	+10.1%
Kroger Co (KR)	48.36	-1.46	-2.9	+6.8%
Realty Income (O)	66.36	-1.91	-2.8	-7.3%

NASDAQ COMPOSITE

+70.23 Closing: 11,862.13
 Change: +.6% YTD % Chg: -24.2%

TOP 10 EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS

ETF, ranked by volume	Ticker	Close	Chg.	% Chg.	% YTD
ProShs UltraPro QQQ	TQQQ	28.06	+0.45	+1.6%	+66.3%
ProShs UltPro ShyQQQ	SQQQ	44.69	-0.73	-1.6%	+50.5%
Direx SOX Bull 3X	SOXL	13.65	+0.66	+5.1%	-79.9%
SPDR S&P500 ETF Tr	SPY	400.38	+2.60	+0.7%	-15.7%
Invesco QQQ Trust	QQQ	300.52	+1.55	+0.5%	-24.5%
iShares Emerging Mkts	EEM	38.43	-0.21	-0.5%	+21.3%
SPDR Financial	XLF	34.05	+0.59	+1.8%	-12.8%
Direx Biotech Bull	LABU	9.72	+0.81	+9.1%	-73.0%
ProShs Short S&P	SH	15.52	-0.09	-0.6%	+14.0%
iShares Brazil	EWZ	30.50	-0.03	-0.1%	+8.7%

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Currency per dollar	Close	Prev.	6 mo. ago	Yr. ago
British pound	.8697	.8694	.7629	.7256
Canadian dollar	1.3098	1.3141	1.2890	1.2673
Chinese yuan	6.9576	6.9661	6.3187	6.4618
Euro	1.0008	1.0018	.9168	.8458
Japanese yen	144.03	144.15	115.74	110.23
Mexican peso	19.9567	19.9998	21.3272	19.9352

RUSSELL 2000

+14.90 Closing: 1,846.91
 Change: +.8% YTD % Chg: -17.7%

COMMODITIES

Commodities	Close	Prev.	Chg.	% Chg.	% YTD
Cattle (lb.)	1.44	1.44	unch.	+0.1%	+3.9%
Corn (bushel)	6.75	6.77	-0.2%	-0.3%	+13.7%
Gold (troy oz.)	1,708.00	1,715.30	-7.30	-0.4%	-6.5%
Hogs, lean (lb.)	.92	.91	+0.01	+1.2%	+13.1%
Natural Gas (Btu.)	7.92	7.84	+0.08	+0.9%	+112.2%
Oil, heating (gal.)	3.54	3.59	-0.05	-1.3%	+52.1%
Oil, lnt. swt. crude (bar.)	83.54	81.94	+1.60	+2.0%	+11.1%
Silver (troy oz.)	18.33	18.14	+0.19	+1.1%	-21.4%
Soybeans (bushel)	14.71	14.67	+0.04	+0.3%	+10.7%
Wheat (bushel)	8.11	8.27	-0.16	-1.9%	+5.2%

FOREIGN MARKETS

Source: Morningstar, Dow Jones Indexes, The Associated Press

IN BRIEF

Stocks recover from a stumble on Wall Street and end higher

Stocks bounced back from a mid-day stumble and closed higher Thursday, keeping the major indexes on track for their first weekly gain in four weeks.

The S&P 500 closed 0.7% higher, after recovering from a 0.9% slide in the early going. The Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Nasdaq composite each gained 0.6% after making it through their own bumpy ride. The indexes are on pace for a weekly gain after posting losses for the previous three weeks.

The S&P 500 rose 26.31 points to 4,006.18. It's up 2.1% so far this week.

The Dow swung from a 259-point loss to a gain of 193.24 points, closing at 31,774.52. The Nasdaq gained 70.23 points to 11,862.13.

Smaller company stocks also gained ground after an initial pullback. The Russell 2000 rose 14.90 points, or 0.8%, to 1,846.91.

Fewer Americans apply for unemployment aid last week

The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits last week fell to its lowest level since May despite repeated attempts by the Federal Reserve to cool the economy and bring inflation under control.

Applications for jobless aid for the week ending Sept. 3 fell by 6,000 to 222,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. First-time applications generally reflect layoffs. The four-week average for claims, which smooths out some of the weekly ups and downs, declined by 7,500 to 233,000.

Hiring in the U.S. in 2022 has been remarkably strong even as the country faces rising interest rates and weak economic growth.

Long-term mortgage rates now at highest point since 2008

Average long-term U.S. mortgage rates jumped again this week to their highest level in almost 14 years, certain to keep even more potential buyers out of a housing market that's cooled considerably since the Federal Reserve began jacking up its benchmark borrowing rate.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac reported Thursday that the 30-year rate jumped to 5.89%, the highest it's been since November of 2008, just after the housing market collapse set off the Great Recession.

The average rate on 15-year, fixed-rate mortgages, popular among those looking to refinance their homes, climbed above 5% for the first time since 2009.

Fraud charges dropped against 2 former Celadon executives

Federal fraud charges have been dropped against two former executives at an Indianapolis-based trucking and transportation company that filed for bankruptcy days after the charges were filed in 2019.

In a court filing last month, the U.S. Department of Justice asked a judge to throw out all nine charges against former Celadon Group Inc. Chief Operating Officer William Eric Meek and Chief Financial Officer Bobby Peavler, The Indianapolis Star reported.

The judge agreed to dismiss the charges with prejudice, meaning they cannot be refiled.

From wire reports



Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank, said the ECB would keep hiking interest rates "over the next several meetings" because "inflation remains far too high and is likely to stay above our target for an extended period."

MICHAEL PROBST/AP FILE

European Central Bank makes largest-ever interest rate hike

High energy, food prices squeezing consumers

David McHugh

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFURT, Germany – The European Central Bank made its largest-ever interest rate increase Thursday, following the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks in a global stampede of rapid rate hikes meant to snuff out the inflation that is squeezing consumers and pushing Europe toward recession.

The bank's governing council raised its key benchmarks by an unprecedented three-quarters of a percentage point for the 19 countries that use the euro currency. The ECB usually moves rates by a quarter-point and had not raised its key bank lending rate by three-quarters of a point since the euro's launch in 1999.

Bank President Christine Lagarde said the ECB would keep hiking rates "over the next several meetings" because "inflation remains far too high and is likely to stay above our target for an extended period."

Lagarde stopped short of predicting a recession, though many economists foresee one at the end of the year and beginning of 2023 as high energy and food prices sap people's spending power. The bank's assumption is economic output would not fall outright but "stagnate" later this year and early next, she said.

The bank's jumbo increase is aimed at raising the cost of borrowing for consumers, governments and businesses, which in theory slows spending and investment and cools off soaring consumer prices by reducing the demand for goods.

Analysts say it's also aimed at bol-

stering the bank's credibility after it underestimated how long and how severe this outbreak of inflation would be. After reaching a record 9.1% in August, inflation may rise into double digits in coming months, economists say.

The war in Ukraine has fueled inflation in Europe, with Russia sharply reducing supplies of cheap natural gas used to heat homes, generate electricity and run factories. That has driven up gas prices by 10 times or more.

European officials decry the cutbacks as blackmail aimed at pressuring and dividing the European Union over its support for Ukraine. Russia has blamed technical problems and threatened this week to cut off energy supplies completely if the West institutes planned price caps on Moscow's natural gas and oil.

The ECB has lagged other central banks in raising rates. Central banks worldwide have scrambled after being wrong-footed by inflation fed by the war in Ukraine and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which have sent energy prices higher and restricted supplies of parts and raw materials.

The sudden campaign to raise interest rates follows years in which borrowing costs and inflation stayed low because of broad trends such as globalization, aging populations and digitalization.

Lagarde rejected comparisons, saying that "we're not trying to mimic any other central bank" and pointing out that the ECB started tightening monetary policy in December, when it decided to phase out its pandemic stimulus through bond purchases.

Some economists say the ECB's interest rate hikes, including a half-point hike at its last meeting in July, could deepen a European recession predicted for the end of this year and the beginning of 2023, caused by higher inflation

that has made everything from groceries to utility bills more expensive.

Lagarde said a 2022-23 recession would occur only under a "really dark" worst-case scenario where all Russian natural gas is cut off, alternative supplies are not available and governments have to resort to energy rationing.

She praised efforts by the EU's executive Commission to contain energy prices, such as through electricity market regulation, and noted that while rate hikes send "a strong signal" of the bank's commitment to fight inflation, "I cannot reduce the price of energy."

But the bank has reasoned that rate hikes will prevent higher prices from being baked into expectations for wage and price deals and that decisive action now will forestall the need for even bigger hikes if inflation gets ingrained.

Europe's central bank "wants to fight inflation – and wants to be seen as fighting inflation," said Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg bank.

However, energy prices and government support programs to shield consumers from some of the pain will "have a much bigger impact on inflation and the depth of the looming recession than monetary policy," he said.

Rate hikes often support a currency's exchange rate – but the euro has been under pressure because of more general fears about recession and economic growth. It has recently fallen under \$1, the lowest level in 20 years. The euro slid about a half-cent after the ECB decision, to around 99.5 U.S. cents.

The ECB's benchmark is now 1.25% for lending to banks. The Fed's main benchmark is 2.25% to 2.5% after several large rate hikes, including two of three-quarters of a point. The Bank of England's key benchmark is 1.75%, and the Bank of Canada raised rates Wednesday by three-quarters of a point, to 3.25%.

Judge OKs \$2.46B Boy Scouts plan

More than 80K have filed claims

Denise Lavoie and Randall Chase
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A bankruptcy judge on Thursday approved a \$2.46 billion reorganization plan proposed by the Boy Scouts of America, which would allow it to keep operating while compensating tens of thousands of men who say they were sexually abused as children while involved in Scouting.

Though legal hurdles remain, the ruling by Judge Laurie Selber Silverstein in Delaware marked an important milestone for the BSA, which sought bankruptcy protection more than two years ago to stave off a flood of lawsuits alleging child sexual abuse by Scout leaders and volunteers.

Lawyers for some of the victims said the amount an individual survivor may receive from the bankruptcy plan depends on multiple factors relating to the alleged abuse. The plan calls for the BSA and its local councils, along with settling insurance companies and troop sponsoring organizations, including Catholic institutions and parishes, to contribute to a fund for survivors. In return, those groups would be shielded from future lawsuits over Scout-related abuse allegations.

More than 80,000 men have filed claims saying they were abused as children by troop leaders around the country.

"Credit to the courageous survivors that this breakthrough in child and scouting safety has been achieved," said attorney Jeff Anderson, whose firm represented more than 800 Boy Scout abuse survivors.

Anderson said most of the \$2.46 billion is to be paid to survivors, but some funds would be set aside in a trust to continue litigation against entities that have not settled, mainly insurance companies. It will likely take months for any



The Boy Scouts of America sought bankruptcy protection more than two years ago to stave off a flood of lawsuits alleging child sexual abuse by Scout leaders and volunteers. TONY GUTIERREZ/AP FILE

of the abuse claimants to receive compensation.

Anderson said the settlement has drawn mixed reactions from his clients. Many are proud they stood up and demanded a cleanup of the Irving, Texas-based Boy Scouts, while others feel like they were dismissed because the organization "hid behind the statute of limitations" in some states.

The Boy Scouts of America said it is pleased the court has approved its reorganization plan.

"We continue to be enormously grateful to the survivor community, whose bravery, patience, and willingness to share their experiences has been

instrumental in the formation of this Plan," the organization said in a statement.

The Boy Scouts said the perspectives and priorities of the survivors "will be ingrained in the BSA's programming moving forward."

The BSA also said that because certain parties have said they plan to appeal the order, the organization will next begin an appeal process in order to emerge from Chapter 11, "which will allow survivors to be equitably compensated and preserve the mission of Scouting for future generations."

A federal district judge must sign off on Silverstein's ruling.

When it filed for bankruptcy, the BSA faced about 275 filed lawsuits and was aware of numerous other potential cases.

Attorneys for BSA insurers argued early on that the sheer volume of claims was an indication of fraud and the result of aggressive client solicitation by attorneys and for-profit claims aggregators. While some of those insurers later negotiated settlements, other insurers continued to oppose the plan. They argued that the procedures for distributing funds from the compensation trust would violate their contractual rights to contest claims and set a dangerous precedent for mass litigation.

Regulators target unlawful debt collection

Report: Nursing homes flout law

Fatima Hussein
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Nursing homes and debt collectors are flouting a law that prohibits them from requiring friends and family of care home residents to shoulder the costs of the facilities, according to a federal report issued Thursday.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau said friends and family members have had to declare bankruptcy, had their wages garnished and their homes repossessed after signing unenforceable contracts called "admission agreements" with nursing facilities. As a result, they have been held liable as third parties for their loved ones' nursing home stays.

Distraught relatives, in sometimes emotional testimony, and lawyers for families told regulators Thursday about collectors seeking tens of thousands of dollars — even hundreds of thousands — in unpaid nursing home fees.

A rise in complaints led the agency and the Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to send a letter to nursing homes and their debt collectors

reminding them to follow the law.

Rohit Chopra, director of the consumer bureau, held a virtual public hearing with advocates, nursing home administrators and people affected by what they say are unlawful debt collection practices.

Anna Anderson, a consumer protection lawyer in New York, said she has seen hundreds of lawsuits filed against friends and family of care home residents that seek reimbursement for facilities' costs.

"It's not only routine" she said. "It's a deeply troubling practice."

She said it "puts families in a position of having to choose between protecting their family members at nursing facilities or putting themselves in a position of financial ruin."

Chris Ferris spoke of how he received a collection letter for thousands of dollars for his mother's nursing home stay. Through tears, he pleaded with bureau officials on the call to do something to stop creditors from hounding him and others for money that should not be legally owed.

"I implore you to do something to stop them," he said. "This is wrong."

The report described one woman who was sent to collections for \$80,000 two days after her mother's death. Another woman received a letter from a law firm stating that she owed the nursing home \$17,000 after her friend's



Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Rohit Chopra held a virtual public hearing with advocates, nursing home administrators and people affected by what they say are unlawful debt collection practices. JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP FILE

death. The report did not identify the individuals by name.

The consumer bureau said in a statement that "collection of debts from those contracts may violate the consumer financial protection laws, including the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act" and its prohibition on false, deceptive, or misleading representations con-

nected to debt collection.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports 1.3 million people live in nursing homes.

As more people in the United States age, the cost of nursing home care is growing along with demand. In 2021, the annual median cost of a single room in a nursing home was \$108,405.

US may expand eligibility for monkeypox vaccine

CDC official says new study is 'call to action'

Mike Stobbe
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — U.S. officials are considering broadening recommendations for who gets vaccinated against monkeypox, possibly to include many men with HIV or those recently diagnosed with other sexually transmitted diseases.

Driving the discussion is a study released Thursday showing that a higher-than-expected share of monkeypox infections are in people with other sexually transmitted infections.

Dr. John T. Brooks, chief medical offi-

cer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's monkeypox outbreak response, said the report represents a "call to action."

Brooks told The Associated Press on Thursday that he expected vaccine recommendations to expand and that "the White House, together with CDC, are working on a plan for what that will look like."

Currently, the CDC recommends the vaccine to people who are a close contact of someone who has monkeypox; people who know a sexual partner was diagnosed in the past two weeks; and gay or bisexual men who had multiple sexual partners in the last two weeks in an area with known virus spread.

Shots are also recommended for health care workers at high risk of expo-

sure.

The vast majority of monkeypox cases are in men who have sex with men who reported close contact with an infected person during sex.

But the new CDC report suggested infections in people with HIV and other STDs may be a bigger issue than previously realized.

The report looked at about 2,000 monkeypox cases from four states and four cities from mid-May to late July.

It found 38% of those with monkeypox infections had been diagnosed with HIV, far higher than their share of the population among men who have sex with men.

The study also found that 41% of monkeypox patients had been diagnosed with an STD in the preceding

year. And about 10% of those patients had been diagnosed with three or more different STDs in the prior year.

There were racial differences. More than 60% of Black Americans with monkeypox had HIV, compared with 41% of Hispanic people, 28% of whites and 22% of Asians.

Jason Farley, an infectious disease expert at the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing, said men of color who have sex with men should be at the front of the line for monkeypox vaccine doses. Within those racial and ethnic groups, the next priority should be anyone living with HIV or was recently diagnosed with a STD, he said.

The study has several limitations, including that the data may not be nationally representative, the authors said.

INVASION IN UKRAINE

Ukraine official warns of disaster

Power needed for large nuclear plant

Hanna Arhirova
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — The head of Ukraine's atomic energy operator accused Russia on Thursday of trying to "steal" Europe's largest nuclear plant by cutting it off from the Ukrainian electricity grid and leaving it on the brink of a radiation disaster.

The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant has been without an outside source of electricity since Monday and receives power for its own safety systems from the only one of its six reactors that remains operational, Energoatom chief Petro Kotin told The Associated Press.

"We are trying to keep this unit running as much as possible, but eventually it will have to be shut down and then the station will switch to diesel generators," he said, adding that such generators are "the station's last defense before a radiation accident."

Ukraine and Russia have traded blame for shelling that has damaged parts of the plant as well as the transmission lines that connect it to Ukraine's electricity network and provide power for the crucial cooling systems that are needed to prevent a melt-down.

The head of the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Grossi, warned the U.N. Security Council this week that "something very, very catastrophic could take place" at the plant and urged Russia and Ukraine to establish a "nuclear safety and security protection zone" around it.

Kotin said the Russians "have a crazy idea to switch the ZNPP to the Russian power system; in fact they are trying to steal the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant of Ukraine and steal all the electricity it produces."

He said the Russians gave the plant management a 10-page plan about three or four weeks ago to connect the plant to the electricity grid in Crimea, which Russia seized from Ukraine in 2014.

On the same day, the Russians started shelling the power lines that connect the plant to the Ukrainian grid, and on Monday, the last line was cut, Kotin said.

This left the plant in "island mode," meaning it receives power from its only



Graves are seen at a cemetery in the settlement of Vinogradnoye, outside Mariupol, Ukraine, on Thursday. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

operational reactor, a highly unusual and unstable way of operating a nuclear plant that he said shouldn't last for more than two hours but has now been in effect for more than three days.

"At any moment, the unit can be stopped completely, and after that, the only power source for the entire nuclear plant will be a diesel generator," he said. While there are 20 generators on site, "if one of these diesel generators fails, the consequences can be very deplorable and bad for the radiation danger of the ZNPP."

Kotin said the plant has enough diesel fuel for 10 days. After that, about 200 tons of diesel fuel would need to be brought in daily for the generators, which he said was "impossible" while the plant was occupied by Russian forces.

He said connecting the plant to the Russian grid also was practically impossible given the hostilities in the area.

"There is no other solution than the de-occupation of the ZNPP, the transfer of the plant to the control of the Ukrainian side or international security organizations," Kotin told AP.

The ZNPP was seized by Russian forces early in the war but is still run by Ukrainian engineers, who Kotin said are working under heavy psychological

pressures.

"I can say that most of the people who work there are pro-Ukrainian. Any-one who openly expressed this pro-Ukrainian position was grabbed, abused, beaten," he said.

Meanwhile, fighting continued near the plant as the towns of Nikopol and Marhanets, which face the plant across the Dnieper River, came under Russian shelling overnight that left apartment buildings, a school, some industrial facilities and power lines damaged, Dnipropetrovsk province Gov. Valentyn Reznichenko said.

"The nuclear threat isn't abating because of Russia's mad actions and we need to consider all possible scenarios, including the worst one," Reznichenko said in televised remarks.

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk urged residents of Russian-occupied areas near the power plant to evacuate, adding that Ukrainian authorities have urged the Russians to set up humanitarian corridors to evacuate residents but received no response.

In the northeastern Kharkiv region, Ukrainian forces retook portions of Russian-held territory there as a Ukrainian counteroffensive in the south drained some of Moscow's resources in the area,

according to a report released Wednesday.

Ukrainian forces in the Kharkiv region are "likely exploiting Russian force reallocation" to areas near the occupied city of Kherson in the south "to conduct an opportunistic yet highly effective counteroffensive" in the province, the Washington-based think tank Institute for the Study of War said.

Ukrainian forces likely used "tactical surprise" to advance at least 12 miles into Russian-held territory in the Kharkiv region on Wednesday, recapturing approximately 155 square miles, the report said.

Brig. Gen. Oleksiy Gromov, the head of the main operational department of the Ukrainian military's General Staff, said at a briefing Thursday that Ukrainian troops had reclaimed control of over 20 settlements in the Kharkiv region and forged up to 30 miles deep into Russian-occupied areas this week.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday said Balakliya, a city of 25,000 and an important railroad junction, was one of the communities Ukrainian forces have recaptured.

"Everything is in its place. The flag of Ukraine in a free Ukrainian city under a free Ukrainian sky!" he said on the Telegram messaging app.

Blinken: More aid for Ukraine, neighbors

Secretary of state makes stop in Kyiv

Matthew Lee and Karl Ritter
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — Underscoring determined U.S. support, Secretary of State Antony Blinken paid an unannounced visit to Kyiv on Thursday and the Biden administration ramped up military aid by more than \$2.8 billion to Ukraine and other European countries threatened by Russia.

The new assistance came as the U.S. sought to boost momentum in Ukraine's counteroffensive against Russia — and amid fears that public support is waning as the war drags on. President Joe Biden, Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin all participated in meetings aimed at showing U.S. resolve to stand behind Ukraine.

In Kyiv, Blinken said the administration would provide \$2.2 billion in long-term military financing to Ukraine and 18 of its neighbors "potentially at risk of future Russian aggression."

That's on top of a \$675 million package of heavy weaponry, ammunition and armored vehicles for Ukraine alone, announced by Austin and Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, earlier in the day.

"I thought it was particularly meaningful (to visit) at this time as Ukraine is starting this counteroffensive in the south, also in the east," Blinken told reporters in Kyiv before boarding a train for Poland after meeting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his top aides.

"It's early days, but we're seeing real effectiveness on the ground, and we're proud of the fact that our support, the



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks to media before his departure at the railway station in Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday. The sign on the train reads "The Victory Train." EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

support of so many other countries, is helping to enable what the Ukrainians are doing and working to liberate territory seized by Russia in this aggression," Blinken said.

He told Zelenskyy when they met, "We know this is a pivotal moment, more than six months into Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, as your counteroffensive is now underway and proving effective."

Zelenskyy replied, "We are grateful for the signal, for this enormous support that you're providing on a day-to-day basis."

The new funding and military weapons are designed to provide enduring training and support for what Gen. Milley called a "very deliberate" counteroffensive that Ukrainian troops have

launched. Meeting virtually, Biden and the leaders of major U.S. allies all emphasized their countries' strong support "for Ukraine as it defends itself from Russian aggression," according to a White House readout.

"Russia's weaponization of energy" and what to do about it — a major concern for this winter in Europe — was also discussed, said press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre. Those on the call included the leaders of Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Poland, Romania, NATO, Canada and Japan and representatives from France and the European Union.

Austin and Milley announced the package of heavy weaponry, ammunition and armored vehicles for Ukraine alone at a conference in Ramstein, Germany.

"We are seeing real and measurable gains from Ukraine in the use of these systems," said Milley.

He said Russia is suffering significant equipment and troop losses. But, he added, "The war is not over. Russia is a big country. They have very serious ambitions with respect to Ukraine. So sustainment of Ukraine to continue their fight for their survival will be necessary."

The \$2.2 billion in so-called Foreign Military Financing has already been appropriated by Congress, but lawmakers, some of whom have expressed concerns about the massive amounts of money going to Ukraine, must still approve the actual allotments. Just two weeks ago, the administration had announced a \$3 billion package of support for Ukraine.

About \$1 billion of the total will go to Ukraine and the rest will be divided among Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, the State Department said.

It will help those countries "deter and defend against emergent threats to their sovereignty and territorial integrity" by enhancing their military integration with NATO and countering "Russian influence and aggression," the department said.

Asked about continued congressional support for the massive aid packages, Austin said the administration will provide its rationale to lawmakers, and "I fully expect that it will continue to receive broad bipartisan support because our leaders recognize how important this is."

Foreign Military Financing allows recipients to purchase U.S.-made equipment, often depending on their needs.

Canada rampage suspect reported dead

News prompts fresh investigation

Rob Gillies and Robert Bumsted

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROSTHERN, Saskatchewan – The last suspect in a horrific stabbing rampage that killed 10 and wounded 18 in western Canada is dead following his capture, but how he died after being taken into custody has prompted fresh investigations.

One official said Myles Sanderson, 32, died from self-inflicted injuries Wednesday after police forced the stolen car he was driving off a highway in Saskatchewan. Other officials declined to discuss how he died.

"I can't speak to the specific manner of death. That's going to be part of the autopsy that will be conducted," Assistant Commissioner Rhonda Blackmore, commander of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Saskatchewan, said at a news conference Wednesday night.

The other suspect, Sanderson's 30-year-old brother, Damien Sanderson, was found dead Monday near the scene of the bloody knife attacks inside and around the James Smith Cree First Nation reserve early Sunday. Both men were residents of the Indigenous reserve.

Blackmore said Myles Sanderson was cornered as police units responded to a report of a stolen vehicle driven by a man armed with a knife. She said officers forced Sanderson's vehicle off the road and into a ditch. He was detained and a knife was found inside the vehicle, she said.

Sanderson went into medical distress while in custody, Blackmore said. She said CPR was attempted on him before an ambulance arrived and he was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

"All life-saving measures that we are capable of were taken at that time," she said.

Blackmore gave no details on the cause of death. But an official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, earlier said Sanderson died of self-inflicted injuries, without elaborating.

Video and photos from the scene showed a white SUV alongside the road with police cars all around. Air bags had deployed in the SUV. Some photos and video taken from a distance appeared to show Sanderson being frisked.

Members of Saskatchewan's Serious Incident Response Team went to the arrest site and will review Sanderson's



James Smith Cree Nation Chief Wally Burns greets a victim's family member during a Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations event on the mass stabbing at James Smith Cree Nation, Saskatchewan, on Thursday.

HEYWOOD YU/THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

death and police conduct.

The federal public safety minister, Marco Mendicino, also stressed that the events will be investigated.

"You have questions. We have questions," he told reporters during a Cabinet retreat in Vancouver, British Columbia, adding: "There will be two levels of police who will be investigating the circumstances of Myles Sanderson's death."

Mark Mendelson, a former Toronto police detective, said the police are bound by police service laws that govern the work of internal affairs when there is a death in police custody. Mendelson said police can't comment yet on how the interaction took place or on what the officers saw or what he said to them.

"They have to at least wait until the forensic autopsy is concluded and hopefully the pathologist will come up with a cause of death. If it's drugs, then toxicology is going to take sometime," he said. "If it's a stab wound that didn't leak through his clothes then we should hear that. Everybody wants answers."

His death came two days after the

body of Damien Sanderson was found in a field near the scene of the knife rampage. Police are investigating whether Myles Sanderson killed his brother.

Darryl Burns, who lost his sister Gloria Burns to the attack, hugged Damien Sanderson's widow at a news conference Wednesday, telling her that the family was ready to forgive.

"Damien was caught up in the life," Darryl Burns said. "He was caught up in a moment. But hearing the stories of Damien. He tried to stop it, he tried to stop it, but he paid with his life."

Sobbing, his widow muttered, "That's not my husband."

Chief Robert Head of Peter Chapman Band said the community was like a "war zone" in the immediate aftermath of the attack. He said four helicopters were swooping down to transport the wounded and dying to medical treatment.

"Right now, we still have 14 families that are in the hospitals there," he said, noting that one of his first cousins was among the dead.

Blackmore said that with both men dead, "we may never have an under-

standing of that motivation."

But she said she hoped the families of the stabbing victims will find some comfort "knowing that Myles Sanderson is no longer a threat to them."

The stabbings raised questions of why Myles Sanderson – an ex-con with 59 convictions and a long history of shocking violence – was out on the streets in the first place.

He was released by a parole board in February while serving a sentence of over four years on charges that included assault and robbery. But he had been wanted by police since May, apparently for violating the terms of his release, though the details were not immediately clear.

His rap sheet also showed that seven years ago, he attacked and stabbed one of the victims killed in Sunday's stabbings, according to court records.

Tribal leaders at the news conference criticized the decision to release Myles Sanderson back into the community.

"The system itself is broken," said Chief Wally Burns of James Smith Cree Nation. "This tragedy could have been avoided."

UN secretary-general arrives in flood-hit Pakistan

Munir Ahmed

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD – U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres arrived before dawn Friday on a two-day visit aimed at expressing his solidarity with Pakistan's government and people over climate-induced floods that have killed 1,391 people since mid-June.

Upon his arrival at an airport near Islamabad, Guterres was received by senior officials.

During the visit, the U.N. chief will travel to flood-hit areas, and he will meet with Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and other government and military officials.

Guterres' trip comes less than two weeks after he issued an appeal for \$160 million in emergency funding to help millions affected by record-breaking floods that have caused at least \$10 billion in damages.

Last week, the U.N. chief issued a stern warning about the effects of climate change.

"Let's stop sleepwalking toward the destruction of our planet by climate change," he said in a video message to a ceremony in Islamabad at the time. "Today, it's Pakistan. Tomorrow, it could be your country."

So far, U.N. agencies and several countries have sent dozens of plane-loads of aid to Pakistani flood victims. Washington has announced the United States will provide \$30 million in assistance to help flood victims.

On Thursday, Sharif told a visiting American diplomat that the world should step up its fight against climate change to avoid more deadly flooding in the impoverished Islamic nation, the government said.

Sharif made the comment in a meeting with Derek Chollet, a senior State Department official visiting Islamabad to assess damages and arrange for aid in the wake of floods that have killed 1,391 people, affected 3.3 million people and



Temporary housing is constructed for flood victims in the Larkana district of Pakistan's Sindh province on Thursday. The floods have killed 1,391 people and made more than half a million homeless. FAREED KHAN/AP

made more than half a million homeless.

According to the statement, Chollet "affirmed that the U.S. would stand by Pakistan in the wake of this immense challenge, extend vital support, and help affected people rebuild their lives and communities."

The meeting came a day ahead of the first American plane-load expected to supplies to the nation.

Chollet on Thursday also met with Pakistan's powerful army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, according to a military

statement, as the Biden administration approved the resumption of a \$450 million sale to Pakistan of equipment for F-16 aircraft maintenance – a sale that had been on hold for years.

Chollet told reporters in Islamabad it was a "step forward" in security relations between the United States and Islamabad.

Earlier, Chollet said that he discussed in meetings with Sharif and other officials how Washington could assist in Pakistan's rescue and relief operations, adding that there will soon be more an-

nouncements of U.S. aid.

Washington was the largest donor to Pakistani flood victims, Chollet said and added that the Biden administration was also talking to other countries to ask them to help Pakistan and was committed to doing its part to address climate change.

The devastation has added new burdens to cash-strapped Pakistan.

The floods in Pakistan, which began in mid-June, have also injured 12,722 people, according to the National Disaster Management Agency.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-2022



Then-Princess Elizabeth waves to the crowd that watched her leave Buckingham Palace in London in 1937. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was born in London on April 21, 1926, the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York. AP FILE



Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip, wave as they ride in the State Gold Coach in London in 2002. Elizabeth, Britain's longest-reigning monarch, died on Thursday. She was 96. REBECCA NADEN/AP FILE

Elizabeth

Continued from Page 1NN

stitution whose relevance in the 21st century has often been called into question.

World leaders paid tribute to her long reign. U.S. President Joe Biden called her a "stateswoman of unmatched dignity and constancy."

She strongly felt the burden of her role as queen, though she was not destined for the crown from birth.

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was born in London on April 21, 1926, the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York. Her father's elder brother, Prince Edward, was first in line for the throne, to be followed by any children he had.

But in 1936, when she was 10, King Edward VIII abdicated to marry twice-divorced American Wallis Simpson, and Elizabeth's father became King George VI.

Her younger sister, Princess Margaret, recalled asking Elizabeth whether this meant that she would one day be queen. "Yes, I suppose it does," Margaret quoted Elizabeth as saying. "She didn't mention it again."

Like many of her generation, Elizabeth was shaped by World War II.

She was barely in her teens when Britain went to war with Germany in 1939. While the king and queen stayed at Buckingham Palace during the Blitz and toured the bombed-out neighborhoods of London, Elizabeth and Margaret stayed for most of the war at Windsor Castle, west of the capital. Even there, 300 bombs fell in an adjacent park, and the princesses spent many nights in an underground shelter.

Her first public broadcast, made in 1940 when she was 14, was a wartime message to children evacuated to the countryside or overseas.

"We children at home are full of cheerfulness and courage," she said with a blend of stoicism and hope that would echo throughout her reign. "We are trying to do all we can to help out gallant soldiers, sailors and airmen. And we are trying, too, to bear our own share of the danger and sadness of war. We know, every one of us, that in the end all will be well."

In 1945, after months of urging her parents to let her do something for the war effort, the heir to the throne became Second Subaltern Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. She enthusiastically learned how to drive and service heavy vehicles.

On the night the war ended in



Then-Princess Elizabeth shakes hands with Winston Churchill, former British prime minister, at a dinner in London in 1950. In the background are then-Prime Minister Clement Attlee and his wife, Violet. Queen Elizabeth II reigned through 15 prime ministers, from Churchill to Liz Truss. AP FILE

Europe, May 8, 1945, she and Margaret managed to mingle, unrecognized, with celebrating crowds in London — "swept along on a tide of happiness and relief," as she told the BBC decades later. She described it as "one of the most memorable nights of my life."

Two years later, at Westminster Abbey in November 1947, she married Royal Navy officer Philip Mountbatten, a prince of Greece and Denmark whom she had first met in 1939 when she was 13 and he 18. Postwar Britain was experiencing austerity and rationing, and so street decorations were limited, and no public holiday was declared. But the bride was allowed 100 extra ration coupons for her trousseau.

The marriage lasted more than 73 years, until Philip's death last year at age 99.

The first of their four children, Prince Charles, was born on Nov. 14, 1948. He was followed by Princess Anne on Aug. 15, 1950, Prince Andrew on Feb. 19, 1960, and Prince Edward on March 10, 1964. Besides them, the queen is survived by eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth and Philip lived for a time in Malta, where he was stationed and Elizabeth enjoyed an almost-normal life as a navy wife.

Then in February 1952, George VI died in his sleep at age 56 after years of ill health. Elizabeth, on a visit to Kenya, was told she was now queen.

"In a way, I didn't have an apprenticeship," Elizabeth told a BBC documentary



in 1992 that gave a rare view into her emotions. "My father died much too young, and so it was all a very sudden kind of taking on and making the best job you can."

Her coronation took place more than a year later at Westminster Abbey, a grand spectacle viewed by millions through the new medium of television.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill's first reaction to the king's death was to complain that the new queen was "only a child," but he was won over within days and became an ardent admirer.

"All the film people in the world, if they had scoured the globe, could not have found anyone so suited to the part," Churchill's biographer, Lord Moran, reported the prime minister gushing about the young monarch.

In Britain's constitutional monarchy, the queen is head of state but has little direct power; in her official actions, she does what the government orders. However, she was not without influence.

Officially the head of the Church of England, she once reportedly commented that there was nothing she could do legally to block the appointment of a bishop, "but I can always say that I should like more information. That is an indication that the prime minister will not miss."

The extent of the monarch's political influence sparked occasional speculation, but not much criticism. The views of Charles, who has expressed strong opinions on everything from architecture to the environment, might prove

more contentious.

The queen was obliged to meet weekly with the prime minister, and they generally found her well-informed, inquisitive and up to date. The one possible exception was Margaret Thatcher, with whom her relations were said to be cool, if not frosty, though neither ever commented.

The queen's views in those private meetings became a subject of intense speculation and fertile grounds for dramatists like Peter Morgan, author of the play "The Audience" and hit TV series "The Crown." Those semi-fictionalized accounts were the product of an era of declining deference and rising celebrity, when the royal troubles became public property.

And there were plenty of troubles in the royal family, an institution known within the palace as "The Firm." In Elizabeth's first years on the throne, Princess Margaret provoked a national controversy through her romance with a divorced man.

In what the queen called the "annus horribilis" of 1992, her daughter, Princess Anne, got divorced, Prince Charles and Princess Diana separated, and so did Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah. That was also the year Windsor Castle, a residence she far preferred to Buckingham Palace, was seriously damaged by fire.

The public split of Charles and Diana — "There were three of us in that marriage," Diana said of her husband's relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles — was followed by the shock of Diana's death in a Paris car crash in 1997. For once, the queen appeared out of step with her people. Amid unprecedented national mourning, Elizabeth's failure to make a public show of grief appeared to many to be unfeeling. After several days, she made a televised address to the nation.

The dent in her popularity was brief. She was by now a sort of national grandmother, with a stern gaze, a kind smile and an inexhaustible repertoire of brightly colored outfits with matching hats.

She took the monarchy from the black-and-white era to the digital age and was a cautious modernizer: She ended the presentation of debutantes at court and instituted garden parties with a cross section of her subjects; her children were sent to school, rather than being privately tutored as she was; she was the first monarch to give the annual royal Christmas speech on television, and the first to send an email and post a tweet.

See ELIZABETH, Page 11NN



Queen Elizabeth II, foreground, fourth right, waves as she watches the flypast, with Prince Philip, third right, Prince William, center, his son Prince George, front, Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, holding Princess Charlotte, center left, Prince Charles, third left, Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, second left, and Princess Anne, left, on the balcony during the Trooping the Colour parade at Buckingham Palace in 2016. TIM IRELAND/AP FILE

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-2022

Charles

Continued from Page 1NN

He also alienated many with his messy divorce from the much-loved Princess Diana, and by straining the rules that prohibit royals from intervening in public affairs, wading into debates on issues such as environmental protection and architectural preservation,

"He now finds himself in, if you like, the autumn of his life, having to think carefully about how he projects his image as a public figure," said historian Ed Owens. "He's nowhere near as popular as his mother."

Charles must figure out how to generate the "public support, a sense of endearment" that characterized the relationship Elizabeth had with the British public, Owens said.

In other words, will Charles be as loved by his subjects? It's a question that overshadowed his entire life.

A shy boy with a domineering father, Charles grew into a sometimes-awkward, understated man who is nevertheless confident in his own opinions. Unlike his mother, who refused to publicly discuss her views, Charles has delivered speeches and written articles on issues close to his heart, such as climate change, green energy and alternative medicine.

His accession to the throne is likely to fuel debate about the future of Britain's largely ceremonial monarchy, seen by some as a symbol of national unity and others as an obsolete vestige of feudal history.

"We know the monarch and certainly the monarch's family – they're not meant to have political voices. They're not meant to have political opinions. And the fact that he's been flexing, if you like, his political muscle is something that he will have to be really careful with ... lest he be seen as unconstitutional," said Owens, who wrote "The Family Firm: Monarchy, Mass Media and the British Public, 1932-53."

Charles, who will be the head of state for the U.K. and 14 other countries, including Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, has defended his actions.

"I always wonder what meddling is, I always thought it was motivating," he said in "Prince, Son and Heir: Charles at 70," a 2018 documentary. "I've always been intrigued if it's meddling to worry about the inner cities, as I did 40 years ago and what was happening or not happening there, the conditions in which people were living. If that's meddling, I'm very proud of it."

In the same interview, however, Charles acknowledged that as king, he wouldn't be able to speak out or interfere in politics because the role of sovereign is different from being the Prince of Wales.

Charles has said he intends to reduce the number of working royals, cut ex-



Prince Charles and his then-wife, Princess Diana, take home their newborn son Prince William as they leave St. Mary's Hospital in London in 1982. Charles and Diana later divorced in 1996. JOHN REDMAN/AP FILE

penses and better represent modern Britain.

But tradition matters, too, for a man whose office previously described the monarchy as "the focal point for national pride, unity and allegiance."

That has meant a life of palaces and polo, attracting criticism that Charles was out of touch with everyday life, being lampooned for having a valet who purportedly squeezed toothpaste onto his brush.

But it was the disintegration of his marriage to Diana that made many question his fitness for the throne. Then, as he aged, his handsome young sons stole the limelight from a man who had a reputation for being as gray as his Saville Row suits.

Biographer Sally Bedell Smith, author of "Prince Charles: The Passions and Paradoxes of an Improbable Life," described him as being constantly overshadowed by others in the family, despite his destiny.

"I think the frustrations are not so much that he's had to wait for the throne," Smith told PBS. "I think his main frustration is that he has done so much and that ... he has been sort of massively misunderstood. He's sort of been caught between two worlds: the world of his mother, revered, now beloved; and Diana, the ghost of whom still shadows him; and then his incredibly glamorous sons."

It took years for many in Britain to forgive Charles for his admitted infidelity to Diana before "the people's princess" died in a Paris car crash in 1997. But the public mood softened after he married Camilla Parker Bowles in 2005 and she became the Duchess of Cornwall.

Although Camilla played a significant role in the breakup of Charles and Diana, her self-deprecating style and salt-of-the-earth sense of humor eventually won over many Britons.

She helped Charles smile more in public by tempering his reserve and making him appear approachable, if not happier, as he cut ribbons, visited houses of worship, unveiled plaques and waited for the crown.

Her service was rewarded last February, when Queen Elizabeth II said publicly that it was her "sincere wish" that Camilla should be known as "Queen Consort" after her son succeeded her, answering questions once and for all about her status in the Royal Family.

Prince Charles Philip Arthur George was born Nov. 14, 1948, in Buckingham Palace. When his mother acceded to the throne in 1952, the 3-year-old prince became the Duke of Cornwall. He became Prince of Wales at 20.

His school years were unhappy, with the future king being bullied by classmates at Gordonstoun, a Scottish boarding school that prides itself on building character through vigorous outdoor activities and educated his father, Philip.

Charles studied history at Cambridge University's Trinity College, where in 1970 he became the first British royal to earn a university degree.

He then spent seven years in uniform, training as a Royal Air Force pilot before joining the Royal Navy, where he learned to fly helicopters. He ended his military career as commander of the HMS Bronington, a minesweeper, in 1976.

Charles' relationship with Camilla began before he went to sea, but the romance foundered and she married a cavalry officer.

He met Lady Diana Spencer in 1977 when she was 16 and he was dating her older sister. Diana apparently didn't see him again until 1980, and rumors of their engagement swirled after she was invited to spend time with Charles and the royal family.

They announced their engagement

in February 1981. Some awkwardness in their relationship was immediately apparent when, during a televised interview about their betrothal, a reporter asked if they were in love. "Of course," Diana answered immediately, while Charles said, "Whatever 'in love' means."

Although Diana giggled at the response, she later said that Charles' remark "threw me completely."

"God, it absolutely traumatized me," she said in a recording made by her voice coach in 1992-93 that was featured in the 2017 documentary "Diana, In Her Own Words."

The couple married on July 29, 1981, at St. Paul's Cathedral in a globally televised ceremony. Prince William, now heir to the throne, was born less than a year later, followed by his brother, Prince Harry, in 1984.

The public fairy tale soon crumbled. Charles admitted to adultery to a TV interviewer in 1994. In an interview of her own, Diana drew attention to her husband's relationship with Camilla, saying: "There were three of us in this marriage."

The revelations tarnished Charles' reputation among many who celebrated Diana for her style as well as her charity work with AIDS patients and landmine victims.

William and Harry were caught in the middle. While the princes revered their late mother, they said Charles was a good father and praised him as an early advocate for issues like the environment.

Tensions persist inside the royal family, underscored by the decision of Harry and his wife, Meghan, to step away from their royal duties and move to California in 2020.

In a televised interview, they later said a member of the royal family had raised "concerns and conversations" about the color of their baby's skin before he was born. The explosive revelation forced William to publicly declare the family wasn't racist.

Charles soldiered on, increasingly standing in for the queen in her twilight years. In 2018, he was named the queen's designated successor as head of the Commonwealth, an association of 54 nations with links to the British Empire. The process accelerated after the death of her husband, Prince Philip, on April 9, 2021.

As Elizabeth declined, he sometimes stepped in at the last moment.

On the eve of the state opening of Parliament this year, on May 10, the queen asked Charles to preside, delegating one of her most important constitutional duties to him – evidence that a transition was underway.

Camilla said in a 2018 documentary that Charles was comfortable with the prospect of being king.

"I think his destiny will come," she said. "He's always known it's going to come, and I don't think it does weigh heavily on his shoulders at all."

Elizabeth

Continued from Page 1NN

Financial pressures led to staff reductions, cutbacks in repairs and maintenance at some of her palaces, and the removal of the royal yacht from active service.

In the 1990s, she voluntarily but prudently agreed to pay taxes, and her dignity survived the necessity of topping up her income by opening a souvenir shop at Buckingham Palace.

Despite being one of the world's wealthiest people, Elizabeth had a reputation for frugality and common sense. She was known as a monarch who took care to turn off lights in empty rooms, a country woman who didn't flinch from strangling pheasants.

A newspaper reporter who went undercover to work as a palace footman reinforced that down-to-earth image, taking photos of the royal Tupperware on the breakfast table and a rubber duck in the bath.

"Dogs and horses, courtesy, kindness and community service, count with her," biographer Giles Brandreth wrote.

Her sangfroid was not dented when a young man aimed a pistol at her and fired six blanks as she rode by on a horse in 1981, nor when she discovered an intruder sitting on her bed in Buckingham Palace in 1982.

The image of the queen as an exemplar of ordinary British decency was satirized by the magazine *Private Eye*, which called her Brenda. Anti-monarchs dubbed her "Mrs. Windsor." But the republican cause gained limited

traction.

On her Golden Jubilee in 2002, she said the country could "look back with measured pride on the history of the last 50 years."

"It has been a pretty remarkable 50 years by any standards," she said in a speech. "There have been ups and downs, but anyone who can remember what things were like after those six long years of war appreciates what immense changes have been achieved since then."

A reassuring presence at home, she was also an emblem of Britain abroad – a form of soft power, consistently respected whatever the vagaries of the country's political leaders on the world stage. It felt only fitting that she attended the opening of the 2012 London Olympics alongside another icon, James Bond, as portrayed by Daniel Craig. Through some movie magic, she appeared to parachute into the Olympic Stadium.

Despite Britain's complex and often fraught ties with its former colonies, Elizabeth was widely respected and remained head of state of more than a dozen countries, from Canada to Tuvalu. She headed the 54-nation Commonwealth, built around the U.K. and its former British colonies.

In 2015, she overtook Queen Victoria, her great-great-grandmother, as the longest-serving monarch in British history, and this year she became the second longest-reigning monarch in world history, behind 17th century French King Louis XIV, who took the throne at age 4.

She kept working well into her 10th decade, though Prince Charles and his elder son, Prince William, took over

most of the visits, ribbon-cuttings and investitures that form the bulk of royal duties.

The loss of Philip was a heavy blow, as she poignantly sat alone at his funeral in the chapel at Windsor Castle.

The family troubles kept coming. Her son, Prince Andrew, was entangled in the sordid tale of sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, an American businessman who had been a friend. Andrew denies accusations that he had sex with one of the women who said she was trafficked by Epstein.

The queen's grandson, Prince Harry, walked away from Britain and his royal duties after marrying American actress Meghan Markle in 2018. He alleged in an interview that some in the family – but pointedly not the queen – had been less than welcoming to his wife.

She enjoyed robust health well into her 90s, though frailty eventually caught up with her. In October, she spent a night in a London hospital for tests, and was later said by the palace to be experiencing "episodic mobility issues."

She kept up virtual meetings with diplomats and politicians from Windsor Castle, but public duties grew rarer, though she made several appearances as the U.K. celebrated her Platinum Jubilee in June.

Pragmatic to the end, she began to prepare the country for the transition to come. She let it be known that she wanted Charles' wife Camilla to be known as "Queen Consort" when her son became king. It removed a question mark over the future role of the woman some blamed for the breakup of Charles' marriage to Princess Diana in the 1990s.

In May, she asked Charles to stand in

for her and read the Queen's Speech at the State Opening of Parliament, one of the monarch's most central constitutional duties.

But she remained firmly in control of the monarchy and at the center of national life as Britain marked her Platinum Jubilee with parties and pageants.

Just 48 hours before her death, she presided at a ceremony at Balmoral Castle to appoint Truss as the 15th prime minister of her reign.

Seven decades after World War II, Elizabeth was again at the center of the national mood amid the uncertainty and loss of COVID 19 – a disease she came through herself in February.

In April 2020 – with the country in lockdown and Prime Minister Boris Johnson hospitalized with the virus – she made a rare video address, urging people to stick together.

She summoned the spirit of World War II, that vital time in her life, and the nation's, by echoing Vera Lynn's wartime anthem "We'll Meet Again."

"We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return. We will be with our friends again. We will be with our families again. We will meet again," she said.

At Queen Square in London's Bloomsbury neighborhood stands an urn erected to commemorate Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee. Etched on the ground around it are the words of poet Philip Larkin, written for that event in 1977, but which remained true decades later:

"In times when nothing stood
But worsened or grew strange,
There was one constant good
She did not change."

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-2022

What role will royal family play?

Charles will likely scale back team to core group

Marco della Cava
USA TODAY

With the death Thursday of Queen Elizabeth II, thoughts immediately turn to her son. And the ascension of Prince Charles to the British throne promises to have a seismic effect on the roles of other royals orbiting the crown.

Succession isn't the issue. That's a simple matter of everyone in line moving up one step as Charles becomes King Charles III. Next up is his firstborn son, Prince William, and then William's firstborn son, Prince George. And so on.

Instead, the looming question is what roles and duties will be taken on by royal relatives under a king who has been vocal about scaling back the British monarchy to placate those pushing to reduce taxpayer support for the extended royal family.

But in scaling back his team to a core group, the king will be walking a tightrope, experts say. While having fewer working royals on the payroll may appeal to republicans, such a skeleton crew may inherently detract from the pomp and circumstance that gives this centuries-old institution its magical appeal.

"We'll likely be seeing a smaller group representing the crown, and there will be pros and cons to that," says Carolyn Harris, historian at the University of Toronto and author of "Raising Royalty: 1,000 Years of Royal Parenting."

On the con side, Harris foresees less frequent and shorter visits to the 54 Commonwealth countries, including Canada, Australia and New Zealand, which could lead to those nations debating whether to remove the British monarch as head of state. The Caribbean nation of Barbados already has.

On the pro side: "There will be a stronger line between who is representing the country and who is simply related to the royal family," says Harris. "That's in contrast to Queen Elizabeth, who brought in many cousins to help with tours and events as she oversaw a transition from empire to commonwealth."



One key figure in Charles' tight circle is likely to be his son William, right. Charles' other son Prince Harry will likely not represent the crown. POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

So who's in and who's out?

Royal watchers agree Charles is not likely to corral extended relatives into the crown's affairs as his mother did with her cousin the Duke of Kent, most famous for his role handing out trophies to the victors at Wimbledon.

Rather, his tapered vision of the monarchy certainly will center on himself and his wife Camilla, who the queen decreed in February is to be called Queen Consort.

The elevation in stature of Camilla – who when she wed Charles in 2005 it was announced she would be Princess Consort – is an acknowledgment of the way she has exercised her duties alongside her husband over the decades. That decorum included taking the title of Duchess of Cornwall, a purposeful avoidance of repeating the Princess of Wales title that had become so associated with the late Princess Diana.

The other key figures in Charles' tight circle are likely to include Charles' son William and his wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge; and Charles' sister Princess Anne and his brother Prince Edward, along with his wife Sophie, Countess of Wessex. As for William and Kate's

three children, Prince George, 9, Princess Charlotte, 7, and Prince Louis, 4, they also are likely to play active roles as they get older.

Those not likely to represent the crown include Prince Andrew, Charles' scandal-ridden brother, and Charles' son Prince Harry, who famously pulled back from royal duties and lives in California with his wife, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex and their two children.

While it remains to be seen if Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, Andrew's daughters with ex-wife Sarah Ferguson, get called upon, the list isn't likely to extend much beyond immediate family, says Nicoletta Gullace, associate professor of history at the University of New Hampshire.

"Metaphorically, heads may roll under the new king," says Gullace, who specializes in British history. She says royals such as Prince Michael of Kent, another of the queen's cousins on her father's side, who lives on royal grounds and recently was in the news after being accused of selling access to the Kremlin, "could be out in the cold."

But the downside of having just a few royals available for events is "there's less fairy dust, less majesty," Gullace adds.

"There will be a stronger line between who is representing the country and who is simply related to the royal family."

Carolyn Harris, historian at the University of Toronto and author of "Raising Royalty: 1,000 Years of Royal Parenting."

How to maintain an 'air of majesty'

"Everyone is going to be working hard and walking a fine line in any slimmed-down monarchy," says Victoria Arbiter, longtime royal watcher and daughter of Elizabeth's one-time press liaison, Dickie Arbiter.

Arbiter says a looming concern is "maintaining an air of majesty" while at the same time addressing issues ranging from politics to climate change. "And if there are only a few people doing all that, it'll be easy for constituents and nations to feel slighted," she says.

Another factor is age. Charles is 73, and his wife is 75. Although Elizabeth and her mother were vibrant into their 90s, it is unknown how active the new monarchy is. That will place more pressure on younger members of the royal family to be included, says Joe Little, managing editor of *Majesty* magazine.

"Maybe in the end what the royal family can even be expected to do needs to be streamlined," he says. "There are only 24 hours in their days."

Little says another critical factor is the difference between when Elizabeth assumed the throne and when her son did: In 1952, the world looked on in awe as a 25-year-old mother of young children suddenly became the sovereign. Charles' rite of passage has been decades in the waiting and happened at a time when the institution itself is being scrutinized like never before.

"The problem for the monarchy is Charles can never be his mother," says Anna Pasternak, a veteran royal observer and author of "The American Duchess: The Real Wallis Simpson."

King Charles will have his challenges. The sense that he will be ruling in a potentially crippling time for the House of Windsor is shared by royal watchers.

Camilla becomes queen, but without the sovereign's powers

Sylvia Hui
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON – After seven decades, the United Kingdom has a new woman to call queen.

Charles' wife, Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, will be known as Queen Consort – a title that came with Queen Elizabeth II's blessing after years of contention, dating back to the days before she even married Prince Charles.

It wasn't always a given that the 75-year-old Camilla would take the title, even though it gives her none of the sovereign's powers.

While the wife of a king is traditionally crowned queen, the question of what title Camilla would hold when Charles became king had been a tricky one for many years. That was due to sensitivity about her status as his second wife – and the wave of grief that washed over Britain following the death of his former wife, Princess Diana, in a car crash in 1997.

Charles and the royal household have moved carefully on the matter, mindful of lingering public perceptions of Camilla as the "third person" that ruined the marriage between Charles and the beloved princess.

But over the decades, Camilla has won over large parts of the British public with her discretion, down-to-earth personality and loyalty to her husband.

When Camilla and Charles married in a low-key civil ceremony in 2005, she was in fact the new Princess of Wales – Diana's title – but she styled herself the Duchess of Cornwall instead.

Palace officials said for years that Camilla "intended" to be known as "Princess Consort" – instead of the traditional "Queen Consort" – when Charles acceded to the throne.

There is no precedent for the title Princess Consort, which was reportedly suggested by royal officials. The similar title of Prince Consort has only been used once – for Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, who reigned from 1837 to 1901.

In a 2010 interview with NBC, Charles was asked if Camilla would become



Then-Prince Charles and Camilla walk to a gala dinner in London in 2020. The two married in a low-key civil ceremony in 2005. CHRISTINE NESBITT/AP FILE

"Queen of England, if and when you become the monarch." He hesitated as he replied, "That's, well ... We'll see, won't we? That could be."

The question was resolved when Elizabeth declared she wanted Camilla to be known as Queen Consort after her son became king.

It was an endorsement that formally signified the royal family's acceptance of Camilla as a respected senior member and was widely seen as a move by Eliza-

beth to pave a smooth transition to Charles' reign.

"When, in the fullness of time, my son Charles becomes king, I know you will give him and his wife, Camilla, the same support that you have given me; and it is my sincere wish that, when that time comes, Camilla will be known as Queen Consort as she continues her own loyal service," Elizabeth said in February 2022, when she marked the 70th anniversary of her rule.

Charles said he and Camilla were "deeply conscious of the honor."

"As we have sought together to serve and support Her Majesty and the people of our communities, my darling wife has been my own steadfast support throughout," he said.

The most recent Queen Consort in British history was George VI's wife Queen Elizabeth, known in later years as the Queen Mother after her daughter became monarch in 1952.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-2022



The newlywed Princess Elizabeth, center, waves to the crowd from the balcony of Buckingham Palace in London as the Royal Family celebrated the wedding of Elizabeth and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, third from right. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

A timeline of Queen Elizabeth's life and 70-year reign on the throne

The reign of Queen Elizabeth II, the only monarch most of her subjects have ever known, is over. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor died Thursday at Balmoral Castle, her estate in Scotland. She was 96. After reigning over the United Kingdom for 70 years, Queen Elizabeth has lived through some remarkable times. From her first personal crisis as queen in 1953 to Princess Diana's death in 1997, here's a look at some of the most important dates from her life:

1926 – A princess is born: Princess Elizabeth, as she was known before ascending the throne at 25, was born in Mayfair, London, to Prince Albert, Duke of York, and his Scottish aristocrat wife, Elizabeth, Duchess of York. Her sister, Princess Margaret Rose, was born Aug. 21, 1930, at Glamis Castle, the Scottish ancestral home of her mother's family, the earls of Strathmore.

1936 – Abdication crisis: King Edward VIII, Elizabeth's uncle, abdicated – gave up his throne – on Dec. 10 to be free to marry a twice-divorced American, Wallis Simpson, after his ministers and the Church of England refused to accept a divorced queen. As a result, his next oldest brother, Prince Albert, Elizabeth's father, became King George VI and her mother became his consort, Queen Elizabeth (later known as the Queen Mother). Their older daughter, Elizabeth, became the heir to the throne, at the age of 10.

1947 – Princess Elizabeth marries Prince Philip: Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, a member of the Greek and Danish royal families, wed in November 1947 after a four-month engagement. The two first met in 1934 at the wedding of their relatives, Princess Marina of Greece and Denmark and Prince George, Duke of Kent. They met again in 1939, when she was 13 and he was 18, and she was forever smitten.

1952 – Elizabeth II ascends the throne: Elizabeth was a young mother of just 25 and vacationing with Philip in Kenya when her father, George VI, died on Feb. 6, 1952, at Sandringham, the royal country retreat in Norfolk. She became queen instantly on his death but didn't know it because international communication at the time was less developed. Philip broke the terrible news to her, both aware their lives would now change utterly. She flew to London immediately to be officially proclaimed queen. Her coronation took place more than a year later, on June 2, 1953, in Westminster Abbey.

1953 – Queen's first personal crisis: The queen faced her first crisis when her sister Princess Margaret wanted to marry Group Capt. Peter Townsend, a divorced World War II hero flyer and her father's equerry. Ministers and church leaders, as with the 1936 abdication crisis, opposed the princess marrying a divorced man. In 1955, under pressure from the church and a threat to her royal status, and after a forced separation and years of headlines, Margaret and Townsend decided not to marry.

1957 – Queen meets President Eisenhower: Though Princess Elizabeth met President Harry S. Truman in 1951, President Dwight D. Eisenhower was the first American leader she met as queen. She welcomed Eisenhower and his wife, Mamie Eisenhower, for a dinner in their honor at the British Embassy in Washington. The queen went on to meet 12 more U.S. presidents.

1973 – Queen's only daughter gets married: The first of the queen's children to marry was her only daughter, Princess Anne, who married her first husband, Capt. Mark Phillips, on Nov. 14, 1973, at Westminster Abbey. The couple had two children, Zara Tindall and Peter Phillips. They divorced in 1992. Princess Anne, now Princess Royal, who remarried in 1992 to Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence, is now grandmother to five.

1981 – The wedding of the century: It was the wedding everyone waited for – the marriage of Elizabeth's son and heir, Prince Charles, now King Charles III, to Lady Diana Spencer in St Paul's Cathedral on July 29. A year later, on June 21, 1982, a new heir to the



The queen's coronation culminated in the traditional Buckingham Palace balcony appearance, to wave to the throngs of spectators. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE



One of the first personal crises of the queen's reign took place soon after the coronation when news broke that her sister Princess Margaret was in love with ex-World War II flying ace Group Capt. Peter Townsend, a divorced man who was one of her father's former equerries. In October 1955, Margaret, under pressure, issued a statement declaring she would not marry Townsend. It was a blow painful for both sisters. Here, the couple are seen in 1947 during a royal tour. AP FILE



Prince Charles, left, sits for a photo with his mother, then-Princess Elizabeth, in Buckingham Palace in London on April 10, 1949. AP FILE



Queen Elizabeth II greets President Dwight Eisenhower and his wife, Mamie, in 1957. From left are: British Ambassador Sir Harold Caccia, Prince Philip, the first lady, the queen, the president and Lady Caccia. AP FILE



In March 1981, just before their wedding, Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer smile while flanking a beaming Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace in London. Charles and Diana divorced in August 1996. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

throne, Prince William, was born. His brother, Prince Harry, was born on Sept. 15, 1984. After years of scandals and recriminations, Charles and Diana divorced in August 1996, under orders from the queen. In 2005, Charles married his longtime mistress, Camilla Parker Bowles, now the Queen Consort.

1992 – The 'annus horribilis': In a woebegone speech (while suffering from a cold), the queen quoted one of her correspondents as saying 1992 was her "annus horribilis," the most painful year of her life. First, three of her children's marriages collapsed, accompanied by tabloid headlines. On Nov. 20, 1992, the queen's beloved Windsor Castle burned for 15 hours, and 100 rooms were damaged or destroyed.

1997 – Princess Diana dies: Diana and her beau, Dodi Fayed, died in a car crash in a tunnel in Paris while racing to evade paparazzi. Later inquiries found the driver was drunk and no one in the car was wearing a seat belt except the sole survivor, a security guard. The queen rarely addressed the nation outside of her annual Christmas speech, but Diana's death was one of the few times she did so, under tremendous pressure from the public and the press to show more feeling publicly about the tragedy.

2002 – Princess Margaret and the Queen Mother die: Queen Elizabeth's only sibling, Princess Margaret, died in her sleep at age 71 in February 2002 after suffering a stroke the day before. Divorced from her husband, Lord Snowdon, she was the mother of two children, David Viscount Linley and Lady Sarah Chatto, both of whom were close to their aunt the queen. A month after her sister's death, Buckingham Palace announced the death of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at age 101.

2015 – Longest-reigning British monarch: On Sept. 9, 2015, Queen Elizabeth II became the longest-reigning British monarch. As 41st monarch since 1066, she surpassed her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria for the longest run in the country's history – just over 63 years and six months.

2019 – Prince Andrew steps back from royal duties: After the fallout from Prince Andrew's past friendship with American sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, the Duke of York, the queen's second son, announced he was stepping away from his royal duties. Two years later, Andrew was sued in federal court in New York and accused of sex crimes, including being a knowing beneficiary of the alleged sex trafficking of a teen girl by Epstein. Andrew, 62, has vehemently denied all the accusations.

2020 – Prince Harry and Duchess Meghan quit royal duties: In a shocking, unprecedented move, Prince Harry and Duchess Meghan of Sussex announced they were stepping down from their senior royal roles and moving to North America. Later, they cited the "toxic" British media as a reason for doing so. Bitter recriminations followed. Harry and Meghan ended up moving to California, where they began their new lives in Santa Barbara County. Then, in an interview in March 2021 with Oprah Winfrey, Harry and Meghan shocked again with more details about why they left, suggesting racism in the royal family and indifference to Meghan's pleas for mental health support.

2021 – Prince Philip dies: The Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Elizabeth's husband and Britain's oldest and longest-serving royal spouse in 10 centuries, died April 9 at 99 years old, just short of his 100th birthday. Married to the queen for more than 70 years, Philip was a steady presence behind her at thousands of public events, as familiar to the British people as the queen.

2022 – Queen Elizabeth II dies 'peacefully': "The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon," the palace tweeted Thursday. "The King and The Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow." Queen Elizabeth II died with her family by her side.

– USA TODAY

QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-2022

'Stalwart': Leaders across world mourn queen

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Condolences poured in from around the world Thursday after the death of Queen Elizabeth II, who became a global icon of calmness and fortitude through decades of political upheaval and social changes at home and abroad.

Elizabeth, who had been on the throne since 1952, when the nation was still rebuilding from the destruction of World War II, died Thursday afternoon at age 96 at Balmoral Castle, her summer residence in Scotland.

In India, once a British colony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Elizabeth "a stalwart of our times."

"She personified dignity and decency in public life," Modi tweeted.

Royalty across Europe mourned Elizabeth's death.

Her life "set an example for all of us and will remain as a solid and valuable legacy for future generations," Spanish King Felipe VI said in a telegram sent to her eldest son, now known as King Charles III.

"We will miss Her dearly," he wrote, speaking for himself and his wife.

King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden called her "a constant presence, not only in British society but internationally."

In Norway, King Harald said that for "nearly a century, Her Majesty devoted her life to the service of the Commonwealth, following the British people through good days and bad, in times of happiness and sorrow."

President Joe Biden was informed of her death by senior advisers during a meeting in the Oval Office.

Elizabeth, who had met more than a dozen American presidents, "was a stateswoman of unmatched dignity and constancy who deepened the bedrock alliance between the United Kingdom and the United States," he and first lady Jill Biden said in a statement, saying she "defined an era."

They later went to the British Embassy to offer condolences. "We mourn for all of you. She was a great lady," Biden



President Joe Biden signs a condolence book at the British Embassy in Washington on Thursday for Queen Elizabeth II, who died after a 70-year reign. First lady Jill Biden, right, and British ambassador Karen Pierce, left, look on.

SUSAN WALSH/AP

could be heard telling embassy staff.

France, Britain's historic rival and contemporary ally, honored Elizabeth with flags at the presidential palace and public buildings ordered lowered to half-staff Friday.

President Emmanuel Macron hailed her "immutable moral authority" and her intimate knowledge of French.

He said no other foreign sovereign had visited the presidential palace more often than Elizabeth, who knew all eight presidents of contemporary France.

"The woman who stood alongside the giants of the 20th century on the path of history has left to join them," Macron said in a statement.

Mourners also gathered at the British Embassy in Paris.

"She's been a constant in my life," said 70-year-old Robert Miller, a London resident in Paris for a conference.

"Whilst I know she was very old, she was still doing her work until yesterday," he said. "Like anybody's mother, you

know, even if you think things are going well, at some point the end of an era comes, and you're very sad."

Russian President Vladimir Putin sent a telegram to King Charles III.

"For many decades, Elizabeth II rightfully enjoyed the love and respect of her subjects, as well as authority on the world stage. I wish you courage and perseverance in the face of this heavy, irreparable loss."

At the United Nations, the Security Council stood in silent tribute at the start of a meeting on Ukraine. France's U.N. Ambassador Nicolas De Riviere, the council president, sent condolences on behalf of its 15 members.

Queen Elizabeth II presided "over a period of historic changes both for her country and the world," he said. "Her life was devoted to the service of her country."

Elizabeth was mourned across the 54-nation Commonwealth, a group built around Britain and its former colonies.

nies.

In Ghana, President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo recalled Elizabeth's visits to his country and praised "the friendliness, elegance, style and sheer joy she brought to the performance of her duties."

"We shall miss her inspiring presence, her calm, her steadiness, and, above all, her great love and belief in the higher purpose of the Commonwealth of Nations, and in its capacity to be a force for good in our world," he said in a statement.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called her "a constant presence in our lives — and her service to Canadians will forever remain an important part of our country's history."

"I'm having trouble believing that my last sit-down with her was my last," Trudeau said later. "I will so miss those chats."

Elizabeth, who was Canada's head of state, visited the country 22 times as monarch.

All the living former U.S. presidents issued statements soon after Elizabeth's death.

Donald Trump said on his social media platform that Elizabeth "will always be remembered for her faithfulness to her country and her unwavering devotion to her fellow countrymen and women."

"Melania and I will always cherish our time together with the queen, and never forget Her Majesty's generous friendship, great wisdom, and wonderful sense of humor. What a grand and beautiful lady she was — there was nobody like her!"

Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, said she made "the role of Queen her own — with a reign defined by grace, elegance, and a tireless work ethic, defying the odds and expectations placed on women of her generation."

He said she welcomed him and his wife — the first Black American president and first lady — to the world stage "with open arms and extraordinary generosity" and said they were struck by her ability to put people at ease.

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S MOST MEMORABLE QUOTES

Queen Elizabeth II, who died Thursday at 96 years old, had an elegant flair for the English language throughout her 70-year reign.

The queen, born Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, died at Balmoral Castle. The monarch had been under medical supervision Thursday as doctors were "concerned for Her Majesty's health."

"The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon," Buckingham Palace tweeted. "The King and The Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow."

Here are some of her most powerful words:

On the balcony of Buckingham Palace on the last day of the Platinum Jubilee earlier this year: "When it comes to how to mark seventy years as your queen, there is no guidebook to follow. It really is a first. ... I remain committed to serving you to the best of my ability, supported by my family."

On her 21st birthday, in 1947, broadcasting to the world from South Africa: "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service."

On her coronation day, in 1953: "I have in sincerity pledged myself to your service, as so many of you are pledged to mine. Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust."

On her first televised Christmas broadcast, in 1957: "I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice but I can do something else — I can give my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations."

On family, in 1989: "Like all the best families, we have our share of eccentricities, of impetuous and wayward youngsters and of family disagreements."

On Princess Diana's death, in 1997: "Since last Sunday's dreadful news we have seen, throughout Britain and around the world, an overwhelming expression of sadness at Diana's death. We have all been trying in our different ways to cope. It is not easy to express a sense



Princess Elizabeth, later Queen Elizabeth II, celebrated her 21st birthday on April 21, 1947, at Natal National Park in South Africa, where she broadcast a message to the British Empire.

EDDIE WORTH/AP

of loss, since the initial shock is often succeeded by a mixture of other feelings: disbelief, incomprehension, anger — and concern for those who remain. We have all felt those emotions in these last few days. So what I say to you now, as your Queen and as a grandmother, I say from my heart. First, I want to pay tribute to Diana myself. She was an exceptional and gifted human being. In good times and bad, she never lost her capacity to

smile and laugh, nor to inspire others with her warmth and kindness. I admired and respected her — for her energy and commitment to others, and especially for her devotion to her two boys."

Reflecting on her marriage to Prince Philip, in 1997: "My husband has quite simply been my strength and stay all these years, and I owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim."

On the Sept. 11 attacks, in 2001: "Grief is the price we pay for love."

On peace, reflecting on WWII, in 2004: "In remembering the appalling suffering of war on both sides, we recognize how precious is the peace we have built in Europe since 1945."

On leadership, in a speech before the U.N., in 2010: "I know of no single formula for success. But over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration to work together."

On past British-Irish conflict, during her historic visit to Ireland in 2011: "To all those who have suffered as a consequence of our troubled past I extend my sincere thoughts and deep sympathy. With the benefit of historical hindsight we can all see things which we would wish had been done differently or not at all."

On the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020: "I want to thank everyone on the NHS front line, as well as care workers and those carrying out essential roles, who selflessly continue their day-to-day duties outside the home in support of us all. I am sure the nation will join me in assuring you that what you do is appreciated and every hour of your hard work brings us closer to a return to more normal times. I also want to thank those of you who are staying at home, thereby helping to protect the vulnerable and sparing many families the pain already felt by those who have lost loved ones. Together we are tackling this disease, and I want to reassure you that if we remain united and resolute, then we will overcome it."

On her 95th birthday, her first after Prince Philip died, in 2021: "I have, on the occasion of my 95th birthday today, received many messages of good wishes, which I very much appreciate. While as a family we are in a period of great sadness, it has been a comfort to us all to see and to hear the tributes paid to my husband, from those within the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world."

— Compiled by USA TODAY

SPORTS

EXTRA

NFL BILLS 31, RAMS 10

OPENING STAMPEDE



Bills quarterback Josh Allen (17) lunges into the end zone for a touchdown as Rams linebacker Bobby Wagner defends during the second half on Thursday in Inglewood, Calif. Allen led Buffalo in a dominating 31-10 win to open the NFL season, on a night the host Rams celebrated in the pregame festivities their Super Bowl 56 victory last February. Allen finished with 297 passing yards and three touchdowns, to go with a rushing score. Los Angeles quarterback Matthew Stafford threw three interceptions and was sacked seven times, but continued to show a strong connection with wide receiver Cooper Kupp (13 catches, 128 yards, one touchdown). "Very humbling night, but one where you look yourself in the mirror and say you have to be better," said Rams coach Sean McVay. "We weren't ready to go. That's on me." **PAGE 2NS**. For local coverage of the Bills, go to democratandchronicle.com/sports ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

WNBA Finals matchup is set

Jonquel Jones had 15 points and 10 rebounds and the Connecticut Sun overcame an 11-point deficit in the fourth quarter, beating the Chicago Sky to advance to the WNBA Finals. **PAGE 9NS**

DeWanna Bonner (24) and Jonquel Jones (35) celebrate after Connecticut defeated Chicago in Game 5 of a WNBA playoff semifinal matchup in Chicago. CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP



No. 1 seed fights on at U.S. Open

The women's singles final will have No. 1 seed Iga Swiatek facing No. 5 Ons Jabeur after Thursday's matches were completed at the U.S. Open. **PAGE 8NS**

Iga Swiatek hits a forehand against Aryna Sabalenka during a women's singles semifinal match at the U.S. Open on Thursday. ROBERT DEUTSCH/USA TODAY SPORTS

NFL

BILLS 31, RAMS 10



Defensive tackle Jordan Phillips (97) of the Bills reacts after a sack on Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford on Thursday at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif.

KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

Bills overpower Rams

Greg Beacham
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Josh Allen passed for 297 yards while accounting for four touchdowns, Von Miller had two of Buffalo's seven sacks, and the Bills stamped themselves as a clear contender for the Rams' Super Bowl crown with a 31-10 victory over Los Angeles on Thursday night.

Gabe Davis, Isaiah McKenzie and Stefon Diggs caught TD passes as the two-time defending AFC East champion Bills opened the NFL's 103rd season by overcoming four turnovers and running away with a blowout win in the same stadium where the Rams won the Super Bowl nearly seven months ago.

Allen went 26 for 31 despite two interceptions. He also rushed for 56 yards, scrambling for a 4-yard TD when he stretched the ball over the line with 13:27 to play. The star quarterback took his share of hits, but he also dished them out and showed off a mean stiff-arm while Buffalo's offense under new coordinator Ken Dorsey largely dominated the champs.

"There's a lot to learn, but that second half, that's who we want to be, going out there and executing that way," Allen said. "We were 90% on third down. That's a recipe for success."

Matthew Stafford passed for 240 yards with one TD and three interceptions on a bruising night for the Rams, who lost a season opener and fell below .500 for the first time in coach Sean McVay's six seasons in charge.

"Very humbling night, but one where you look yourself in the mirror and say you have to be better," McVay said. "We weren't ready to go. That's on me. ... There were a lot of decisions I made that didn't put us in the best position to succeed. It was a very humbling night."

The Bills' seven sacks were the most allowed in McVay's tenure with the Rams, who lost two starters from last year's offensive line and attempted to replace them internally.

Diggs punctuated the domination with a 53-yard TD catch with 9:25 to play, talking trash to Rams All-Pro defensive back Jalen Ramsey afterward.

"We're going to make the plane do backflips on the way home tonight," Miller said. "We're going to celebrate this win, because you have to, but then we're going to go back to the lab. We're not going to let this success put our guard down."

Super Bowl MVP Cooper Kupp had 13 catches for 128 yards and a touchdown, but the Rams' night went quickly downhill after they unveiled their champion-

ship banner in a pregame ceremony. Los Angeles could not keep up with Allen's creative playmaking or the Bills' pass rush, and its only major offseason addition on offense — receiver Allen Robinson — had one catch on two targets.

The Rams even got shut out in the second half, ending a streak of 89 consecutive halves with a point since November 2019.

Miller made an immediate impact in his debut for the Bills, who signed him away from the Rams after he won a ring in his half-season in LA. But he was just one part of a defense that yielded only 177 yards before Los Angeles' final, meaningless drive.

Aaron Donald made his 99th career sack in the first half, but the seven-time All-Pro had just two tackles as the Rams became only the second defending champions in the last 10 years to lose the following season opener. Los Angeles trailed 17-10 after three quarters, but Buffalo ran away with two lengthy TD drives early in the fourth quarter.

With Dorsey taking over from Brian Daboll, the Bills went 9 for 10 on third downs and racked up 413 total yards, but three first-half turnovers kept it close early.

Allen set a career high to start a game by completing his first 10 passes, but linebacker Terrell Lewis' interception stopped Buffalo's second drive in Rams territory.

Rookie James Cook fumbled away his first touch for Buffalo moments later, but Dane Jackson made an interception two snaps after that.

Los Angeles finally scored on its fourth drive when Kupp made an exceptional toe-tapping catch in the back of the end zone on a precise throw three minutes before halftime. The Rams got the ball back on Troy Hill's interception, and Matt Gay hit a 57-yard field goal to pull the Rams even at the halftime gun.

50k

With a long third-down pass to Kupp

on his opening drive, Stafford became the 12th quarterback in NFL history to pass for 50,000 career yards. He tied Drew Brees as the fastest to the mark, doing it in 183 games.

To the rafters

Along with the banner to celebrate last February's title, the Rams also hung a banner in the south rafters at SoFi Stadium honoring the 1999-2000 Super Bowl champions from the St. Louis era. The brief pregame ceremony included owner Stan Kroenke, retired left tackle Andrew Whitworth — and free agent Odell Beckham Jr., who held aloft the Lombardi Trophy.

Injuries

Bills DL Ed Oliver injured his ankle in the first half and tried to play through it, but couldn't do much. ... Rams rookie RB Kyren Williams injured his ankle in the opening minutes. ... The Rams played without WR Van Jefferson, who had knee surgery early in training camp after starting 21 games last season.

Up next

Bills: Host Tennessee on Monday, Sept. 19.

Rams: Host Atlanta on Sunday, Sept. 18.

BILLS 31, RAMS 10

	7	3	7	14	-	31
Buffalo	7	3	7	14	-	31
First Quarter						
Buf—Davis 26 pass from J.Allen (Bass kick), 9:56.						
Second Quarter						
Buf—FG Bass 41, 8:48.						
LAR—Kupp 4 pass from Stafford (Gay kick), 3:00.						
LAR—FG Gay 57, :00.						
Third Quarter						
Buf—McKenzie 7 pass from J.Allen (Bass kick), 7:59.						
Fourth Quarter						
Buf—J.Allen 4 run (Bass kick), 13:27.						
LAR—Diggs 53 pass from J.Allen (Bass kick), 9:25.						
A-73,846.						
First downs	23					19
Total Net Yards	413					243
Rushes-Yards	25-121					18-52
Passing	292					191
Punt Returns	1-21					0-0
Kickoff Returns	0-0					4-67
Interceptions Ret.	3-29					2-5
Comp-Att-Int	26-31-2					29-41-3
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-5					7-49
Punts	0-0					4-45-25
Fumbles-Lost	2-2					1-0
Penalties-Yards	5-35					4-30
Time of Possession	31:14					28:46

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Buffalo, Allen 10-56, Singletary 8-48, Moss 6-15, Cook 1-2. L.A. Rams, Henderson 13-47, Powell 1-3, Stafford 1-2, Akers 3-0. RECEIVING—Buffalo, Diggs 8-122, Moss 6-21, Davis 4-88, Crowder 3-28, McKenzie 2-19, Singletary 2-14, Knox 1-5. L.A. Rams, Kupp 13-128, High 5-39, Henderson 5-26, Skowronek 4-25, Al-Robinson 1-12, Powell 1-10. MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.



Bills linebacker Von Miller (40) walks off the field after defeating the Rams, his former team, on Thursday. GARY A. VASQUEZ/USA TODAY SPORTS

NFL



Rams RBs coach Ra'Shaad Samples works with his players before a preseason game. BREVIN TOWNSELL/RAMS

Meet Samples, the NFL's youngest position coach

Goal of running backs coach for Rams: Create lanes

Jori Epstein

USA TODAY

IRVINE, Calif.— Ra'Shaad Samples hoped the sauna would clear his mind.

Instead, the Los Angeles Rams running backs coach encountered the source of his frustration: Bobby Wagner.

Wagner, the eight-time Pro Bowl linebacker, had been “beating the dog out of” Samples’ running backs in one-on-one pass protection drills at training camp. Samples yearned to understand.

“I’m a big fan of going to ask the person who whooped your (expletive): ‘How did you whoop my (expletive)?’” Samples told USA TODAY Sports. “I rage for answers.”

Forty-five minutes of scheme and steam later, Samples could explain: Wagner saw young Rams backs shifting weight to an inside foot before the snap. The 11th-year defender jabbed toward that center of gravity to shake them loose, then sought to beat them inside on some snaps and around the edge others. Physicality was not enough to triumph — player and coach alike must seek out every mental edge.

“Hard work,” Rams head coach Sean McVay said, “expedites experience.”

When the Rams host the Buffalo Bills Thursday night for the NFL season opener, Samples will take the sideline as the youngest position coach not just in the game but across the entire league this year, a USA TODAY Sports analysis confirmed.

The 27-year-old was born 506 days after New England Patriots cornerbacks coach Mike Pellegrino, the next youngest.

More than 100 coaches — roughly 14% of the league — were coaching full-time in the NFL or college football before he was born, the analysis found.

Since 2015, Samples has climbed rapidly from college receiver to college assistant coach and recruiting force, to now position coach for the defending Super Bowl champions. He relishes the opportunity. But this meteoric rise is not enough.

“It’s what you do when you get here, succeeding,” Samples said. “Because there’s going to be another 26-year-old coach, 25-year-old coach who gets to interview for a job. I’m the youngest one in a job now so the next that’s going to come up — I’ve got to do a good job for him.”

“Create lanes for people.”

You’re going to be a damn good coach’

Samples never expected to become an NFL coach in his lifetime, much less before his 28th birthday. He wasn’t a running back growing up; concussions forced him into medical retirement before he could pursue an NFL career; and he resented how his father, Reginald — a legendary Texas high school football coach named USA TODAY’s 2019-20 national coach of the year — coached his

son as hard at home as he did on the football field.

What would Ra'Shaad have said if he was told three years ago the Rams would hire him to this role?

“I’d say, ‘Wake up from that [expletive] dream,’” Samples laughs.

He was football-savvy from a young age, more crafty than athletic. Former Texas Longhorns head coach Tom Herman ranks Samples as one of the two best high school route runners he ever recruited. The other: 13-year NFL player Danny Amendola.

“Could cut on a dime, double moves, releases vs. press,” Herman described the teenage Samples to USA TODAY Sports. “I was just like, ‘Man, this is stuff upper-level college guys, if not NFL guys, are doing.’”

Samples committed to Oklahoma State, where he played just one game, and then transferred to Houston, where concussions abruptly ended his career. Herman, then Houston’s head coach, implored his team captain to stay on.

“Tom dragged me out there and said, ‘You’re going to be a damn good coach.’”

Samples was soon distributing weekly quarterback tests and charting defensive coverages from the game booth alongside offensive coordinator Brian Johnson. They remember the learning curve — Samples charting a series of defensive formations as simply “Drop 8,” without specifying the specific coverage within a coverage family — and the exciting moments, like when Johnson first empowered Samples to choose a play.

The young assistant chose 50-T-Fly-Panther, giving his quarterback a decision to run a draw or throw to the fly. “I was terrified,” Samples said, “like this (expletive) is going to get pick-sixed.”

But he learned.

Samples soon migrated north to Herman’s Texas staff in 2018, to Sonny Dykes’ SMU staff in 2019, and then with Dykes to TCU last December. Before his 27th birthday, he was named TCU’s assistant head coach, run game coordinator and recruiting coordinator. But within three months, a Rams shift began: Super Bowl running backs coach Thomas Brown shifted to tight ends coach to further immerse in the pass game, and McVay trusted Brown to guide the search for his replacement. Brown says Samples was the youngest, least experi-

enced and least personally familiar candidate he contacted. But Brown saw the coaching material Samples wished his narrative had more centered on and even was “irritated” that Samples was labeled firstly as a recruiting weapon — Samples believes that stemmed in part from stereotypes of the young, dynamic Black coach — and only then touted as a football coach.

“Having the opportunity to listen to him detail up the running back position, which I’ve known my entire life from playing and coaching it, you can’t B.S. me on that,” said Brown, whose 10 years coaching running backs at the college and pro levels also included a stint as Miami offensive coordinator. “His detail and his communication skills were like a no-brainer to me.”

‘Give people opportunities’

McVay, who became a position coach at 24, has advised Samples: Don’t be afraid to admit what you don’t know. Young position coaches can achieve more success, the league’s youngest-ever head coach said, with an open mind and transparent knowledge basis.

“He’s got a refreshing security in himself to be able to ask questions,” McVay told USA TODAY Sports, adding Samples “knocked it out of the park” explaining run concepts in his interview.

Samples regales his players with wisdom from the nine-and-a-half personal growth books he has read and noted in depth since April, reminding them to be vulnerable to growth and to automate their habits toward success. Entering Thursday’s game vs. the AFC runner-up Buffalo Bills, his motivation focuses less on individual production goals and more on building toward efficiency, consistency and well-executed assignments that best contribute to team success. Samples considers his own goals through the same communal lens.

Sure, Samples aspires to rise, aiming to earn jobs as coordinator and then NFL head coach — ideally within the next five years. But he frames his own advancement as a means rather than end.

“Give people opportunities they may not necessarily have had,” Samples said. “That’s why I want to be a head coach.”

Contributing: Tom Schad



Rams running backs coach Ra'Shaad Samples at training camp at University of California Irvine. KIYOSHI MIO/USA TODAY SPORTS

Kamara mum on case, talks up offense

Brett Martel
ASSOCIATED PRESS

METAIRIE, La. — New Orleans Saints running back Alvin Kamara wore a blue NFC Pro Bowl hooded sweatshirt as he walked out of the locker room at team headquarters on Thursday.

It was at once a reminder of how important he remains to the Saints’ offense, and the legal trouble that continues to loom over him.

Kamara, who was arrested in Las Vegas last February because of his alleged role in the beating of a casino patron during Pro Bowl weekend, spoke with media on Thursday for the first time since.

Kamara declined to speak about his case — in which he is charged with felony battery — other than when he said it is not distracting him from his commitments to his team, and won’t prevent him from joining the Saints in London for a game against Minnesota on Oct. 2.

But Kamara welcomed questions about his recent good health and what he views as improved prospects for the Saints offense now that quarterback Jameis Winston is back from a major injury last year, that the offensive line is healthy and that the receiver corps has been revamped.

“I’m definitely healthy,” said Kamara, who had 1,337 yards and nine touchdowns from scrimmage last season as both a runner and receiver, despite missing four games because of a knee injury. “I might have gotten faster. I don’t know. I feel explosive. I feel good.”

Kamara’s health is but one reason he’s optimistic about this season, which for the Saints opens on Sunday at Atlanta.

The Saints offense was beset by injuries to key players last season at skill positions and along the offensive line. New Orleans dropped to the bottom of the league in yards passing per game.

That allowed defenses to focus more attention on stopping Kamara, who was playing hurt.

If the Saints have better fortune with injuries this season, that won’t be the case, “and we all know it, so everybody’s ready,” Kamara said.

“I feel like I was sometimes on an island a little bit as far as the focus” of opposing defenses last season, Kamara said. “For a defense, it’s a little bit easier to just, I guess, hone in on one to two guys rather than four or five guys.”

This season, Saints opponents will once again have to defend Thomas, who in 2019 set an NFL record for catches in a season with 149.

“This is what we’re used to seeing: Just high-powered play makers,” Kamara said. “I’m excited because we’re all healthy and we’re all ready and everybody’s just itching to get back on the field together.”

“I’m as focused as ever this year because I feel we have the pieces that we need,” he added.

Peterson set to box Bell, wants to play again

Adrian Peterson still wants to play in the NFL after he fights Le’Veon Bell in the boxing ring. A four-time All-Pro running back, Peterson is taking on the two-time All-Pro back Bell on Saturday night at Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles. It’ll be the first boxing match for the former NFL stars. The 37-year-old Peterson played for Tennessee and Seattle last season while Bell spent time with Baltimore and Tampa Bay. “Still chasing that championship, and you only get the opportunity to do this once in a lifetime,” Peterson told the AP Pro Football Podcast. “If I could continue to play and make it to 15, 16 years, why not? Fifteen years from now, I’ll be sitting back reminiscing about the opportunity that I had and the guys I played against. I know I have the ability to get out there and still play at a high level, so that’s something that I desire, to continue to play.”

— Associated Press

MLB

THURSDAY'S ROUNDUP



Brewers right fielder Hunter Renfroe (12) celebrates with shortstop Willy Adams (27) after the Brewers beat the Giants in the first game of Thursday's doubleheader at American Family Field in Milwaukee. BENNY SIEU/USA TODAY SPORTS

Brewers earn sweep of Giants

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILWAUKEE — Garrett Mitchell hit an RBI double and the Milwaukee Brewers withstood Freddy Peralta's early exit to beat the San Francisco Giants 4-2 and complete a doubleheader sweep.

In the opening game, Corbin Burns struck out 14 and allowed three hits in eight shutout innings in a 2-1 victory.

Peralta left the second game due to fatigue in his right shoulder after walking Tommy La Stella to lead off the third inning. The Brewers led 3-0 at the time.

The Brewers are at home for 20 of their last 26 games, a stretch that started with this doubleheader. They're hoping that schedule helps them go on a late surge as they attempt to chase down the Philadelphia Phillies and San Diego Padres for the NL's final wild-card spots.

"Having all these home games at the end is definitely going to help us with this playoff push, but it takes some good baseball for us to get in there," Burns said.

Burns entered this doubleheader having allowed 17 earned runs in 21 innings over his last four starts. But he dominated the Giants and showcased the form that enabled him to win the NL Cy Young Award last season.

He struck out 10 or more batters for the ninth time this season to tie the Brewers' single-season record set by Ben Sheets in 2004. Burns also holds the franchise record for double-digit strikeout games with 21.

The 14 strikeouts were one off Burns' career high. He had 15 in a 10-0 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Aug. 11, 2021.

"Nothing new," Giants manager Gabe Kapler said. "That's Corbin Burns. That was as good as we've seen him. His stuff was carrying through the zone. He was hitting the top of the zone. His cutter was working well. The ball was moving all over the place. It's tough to name five better starters in baseball."

White Sox 14, Athletics 2

OAKLAND, Calif. — Yoán Moncada went 5 for 6 with two home runs and five RBIs, Dylan Cease stuck out nine in six scoreless innings and the White Sox hammered the Athletics.

The 14 runs were a season high for Chicago, which has won seven of its last nine games. Chicago had 21 hits, including 10 extra-base hits.

Rom González went 4 for 5 with a homer and three RBIs. Elvis Andrus, released by the A's in August, and Eloy Jiménez also homered.

Cease reached 206 strikeouts for the year, becoming the seventh White Sox pitcher with multiple 200-strikeout seasons. The right-hander allowed three hits and two walks after coming within one out of a no-hitter in his last start against the Minnesota Twins.

Oakland has lost three in a row and seven of its last eight.

Andrus and Moncada started the game with back-to-back home runs off of JP Sears.

Twins 4, Yankees 3

NEW YORK — Carlos Correa responded to booing Yankees fans with a tie-breaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning, and the Twins beat New York to avoid a four-game sweep.

Correa's two-out drive off former Fordham pitcher Greg Weissert followed an unsuccessful video review called by the Yankees after what New York thought should have been the third out. The Yankees maintained Wandy Peralta got to first in time on the flip from first baseman Marwin Gonzalez on Jake Cave's grounder, but replays showed Peralta trapped the ball with his glove against his body.

Yankees manager Aaron Boone bounded from the dugout to argue with crew chief Larry Vanover and threw his

hands up in frustration before leaving the field.

One out later, Correa connected on a 1-2 slider for his 18th homer, his second in two days. It gave Minnesota a 4-2 lead and he pounded his chest in the direction of his dugout while rounding third base.

Minnesota held on to stop a 10-game losing streak at Yankee Stadium dating to May 2019.

Jorge López threw a run-scoring wild pitch in the bottom half, but the Yankees stranded the potential tying run at third in each of the last two innings. Caleb Theilbar ended the eighth by striking out pinch-hitter Giancarlo Stanton, who is 4 for his last 38. Stanton had not played since fouling a pitch off a leg on Monday,

Marlins 6, Phillies 5

PHILADELPHIA — Phillies first baseman Rhys Hoskins' two-base error allowed Miami to tie the game in the ninth and Brian Anderson's followed with an RBI single that sent the Marlins past Philadelphia and snapped their nine-game losing streak.

Philadelphia led 5-4 when Garrett Cooper led off the ninth with a double off David Robertson.

Joey Wendle, who homered earlier, slapped a pitch down the line that Hoskins failed to snag, and the ball rolled into right field as pinch-runner Bryan De La Cruz scored.

Avisail García walked, and Anderson hit a go-ahead single to right.

Dylan Floro worked two scoreless innings for his first win since Sept. 20 last year, and the Marlins avoided a three-game sweep.

Reds 4, Cubs 3

CHICAGO — Jonathan India hit a tie-breaking RBI single in the ninth inning,

and the Reds rallied for a victory over the Cubs.

Chicago was ahead 3-2 when Alejo Lopez's liner off Mark Leiter Jr. (2-7) slipped between rookie right fielder Seiya Suzuki and center fielder Rafael Ortega and rolled to the wall for a triple, allowing Nick Senzel to score from first to tie it. Lopez trotted home on when India lined a single to left, his third hit of the game.

Suzuki doubled and scored in the sixth and put Chicago in front with a solo shot in the eighth. His 12th homer was a liner into the first row of Wrigley Field's left-center bleachers off Alexis Diaz.

Diaz got five outs for the win. Ian Giabaut worked around a hit in the ninth for his first save.

Kyle Farmer led off the seventh with a solo shot to chase Cubs starter Adrian Sampson, who allowed one run on five hits and walked none. Kyle Farmer and Jake Fraley each had two hits for the Reds, who have won two straight and three of four.

Nationals 11, Cardinals 6

ST. LOUIS — Yadier Molina homered twice on a day he paired with St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Adam Wainwright to tie the major league record of 324 starts by a battery in a loss to the Nationals.

Alex Call had four hits and five RBIs for Washington, including a three-run homer off James Naile in the ninth.

Wainwright and Molina matched the mark set by Detroit's Mickey Lolich and Bill Freehan from 1963-75.

Molina hit a two-run homer into the third deck in left field in the third and a solo shot just over the wall in the fourth. It was the ninth career multi-homer game for Molina and his first since April 17, 2021, at Philadelphia.

Wainwright allowed four runs and nine hits in five innings.

MLB

THURSDAY'S BOX SCORES

White Sox 14, Athletics 2

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Chicago	240	224	000	14			
Oakland000 000 020	2					
Chicago	47	14	21	14	3	7	
Andrus ss	5	3	2	2	0	2	.237
Garcia ss	1	0	0	0	0	0	.214
Moncada 3b	6	3	5	5	0	0	.211
Abreu 1b	0	1	0	0	0	0	.100
a-Sheets ph-1b	2	0	1	0	0	0	.251
Jimenez dh	5	2	1	2	1	2	.302
Pollack lf	4	2	0	1	0	0	.242
Harrison 2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.246
Vaughn rf	5	1	1	0	0	0	.283
Alvarez 2b-1f	5	3	4	3	0	1	.339
Zavala c	1	2	0	1	0	0	.381
Engel cf	5	0	1	1	0	1	.228
Totals	47	14	21	14	3	7	
Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Kemp 2b	2	0	1	0	1	0	.229
Brice 2b	1	1	0	0	0	0	.230
Brown lf-1f	3	1	2	0	1	1	.230
Murphy c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.251
Langeliers c	0	0	0	1	0	0	.216
Vogt dh	3	0	0	0	0	3	.179
b-Murphy ph-p	0	0	0	1	0	0	.214
Lazearno rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.219
Thomas lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.212
MacIn 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.220
Garcia 1b	4	0	1	0	0	3	.277
Pachin cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.157
Allen ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.204
Totals	32	2	6	2	13		

a-grounded out for Abreu in the 6th. b-grounded out for Vogt in the 8th.

Luis Chacin 9, Oakland 8. 2B: Zavala (2), Gonzalez (3), Moncada (12), Pollack (24), Machin (6), Brown (23). HR: Andrus (8), off Sears; Moncada 2 (9), off Sears; Jimenez (11), off Loupe; Gonzalez (2), off Loupe. RBI: Andrus 2 (30), Moncada 5 (45), Jimenez 2 (38), Engel (15), Vaughn (65), Gonzalez 3 (9), Langeliers (13), Neuse (26). DP: Oakland 1 (Allen, Kemp, Garcia).

Pitching ip h r er bb so era

Chicago	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	era
Cease, W, 14-6	6	3	0	0	2	9	2.06
J.Ruiz	1	1	0	0	0	2	.427
Velasquez	2	2	2	0	2	5.37	
Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Sears, L, 2-2	2	8	6	6	1	2	.430
Seque	3	10	8	8	2	6	.579
Oyr	3	2	0	0	0	3	.225
Neuse	1	1	0	0	0	0	.000

Inherited runners-scored: Cyn 1-0. WP: Cease.

Umpires: HP: Gabe Morales; 1B: Andy Fletcher; 2B: Edwin

Moscoso; 3B: Chris Segal.

T: 3:16. A: 4,591 (46,847).

Twins 4, Yankees 3

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Garlick rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Lopez p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Thielbar p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Fulmer p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Moncada ss	4	1	1	2	2	.271	
Miranda 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.273
Urshela 3b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.262
Sanchez c	4	1	3	1	0	1	.219
1-C.Hamilton pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Leon c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.167
Celestino c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.248
Alvarez 2b-2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.267
Gordon 2b-1f	0	0	1	1	0	1	.275
B.Hamilton lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
a-Cave ph-1f	2	0	0	0	0	0	.219
Totals	34	4	8	4	1	6	
New York	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Hicks lf	5	0	1	0	0	2	.212
Judge rf	4	1	2	0	1	0	.300
Torres 2b	4	0	0	0	1	3	.237
Kinner-Falefa 3b	5	1	2	0	1	.269	
Gonzales 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.201
Alvarez 3b	3	2	2	1	1	.243	
Abrial cf	0	0	0	0	2	.100	
b-Stanton ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.213
Locastro cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.162
Higashikawa c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.193
c-Trevino ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.254
Peraza ss	3	0	1	0	0	0	.193
Totals	36	3	10	2	4	10	.278

a-lined out for B.Hamilton in the 5th; b-grounded out for Diaz in the 6th; c-grounded out for Higashikawa in the 9th.

1-run for Sanchez in the 9th.

E: Palacio (3), Peralta (1). LOB: Minnesota 4, New York 10. 2B: Sanchez (21), Judge (23), Hicks (7), HR: Correa (18), off Weisert; Andujar (1), off Gray. RBI: Sanchez (48), Gordon (36), Correa (2), Andujar (2). SB: Kinner-Falefa (18).

Runners left in scoring position: Minnesota 0; New York 0; Yankees 0.

Runners moved up: Gonzalez, LIDP; Cave, Hernandez; DP: Lopez (1), Gordon (Miranda); New York 1 (Hicks, Torres, Hicks).

Pitching ip h r er bb so era

Minnesota	ip	h	r	er	bb	so	era
Garlick rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Lopez p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Thielbar p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Fulmer p	0	0	0	0	0	0	---
Moncada ss	4	1	1	2	2	.271	
Miranda 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.273
Urshela 3b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.262
Sanchez c	4	1	3	1	0	1	.219
1-C.Hamilton pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Leon c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.167
Celestino c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.248
Alvarez 2b-2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.267
Gordon 2b-1f	0	0	1	1	0	1	.275
B.Hamilton lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
a-Cave ph-1f	2	0	0	0	0	0	.219
Totals	34	4	8	4	1	6	
New York	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Hicks lf	5	0	1	0	0	2	.212
Judge rf	4	1	2	0	1	0	.300
Torres 2b	4	0	0	0	1	3	.237
Kinner-Falefa 3b	5	1	2	0	1	.269	
Gonzales 1b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.201
Alvarez 3b	3	2	2	1	1	.243	
Abrial cf	0	0	0	0	2	.100	
b-Stanton ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.213
Locastro cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.162
Higashikawa c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.193
c-Trevino ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.254
Peraza ss	3	0	1	0	0		

MLB

Pujols keeps chasing home run history

Dave Skrett
ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. – Rodolfo Castro doesn't remember how old he was when he first met Albert Pujols, or even the exact circumstances, whether it was at a major league game or during one of the big slugger's charitable trips back to the Dominican Republic.

Castro remembers how he felt, though. It was that childlike sense of wonder that comes when you meet your hero.

"I know I was a young kid," recalled Castro, now the 23-year-old infielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates. "And I was very timid in approaching him because I knew his stature and knew what he represented."

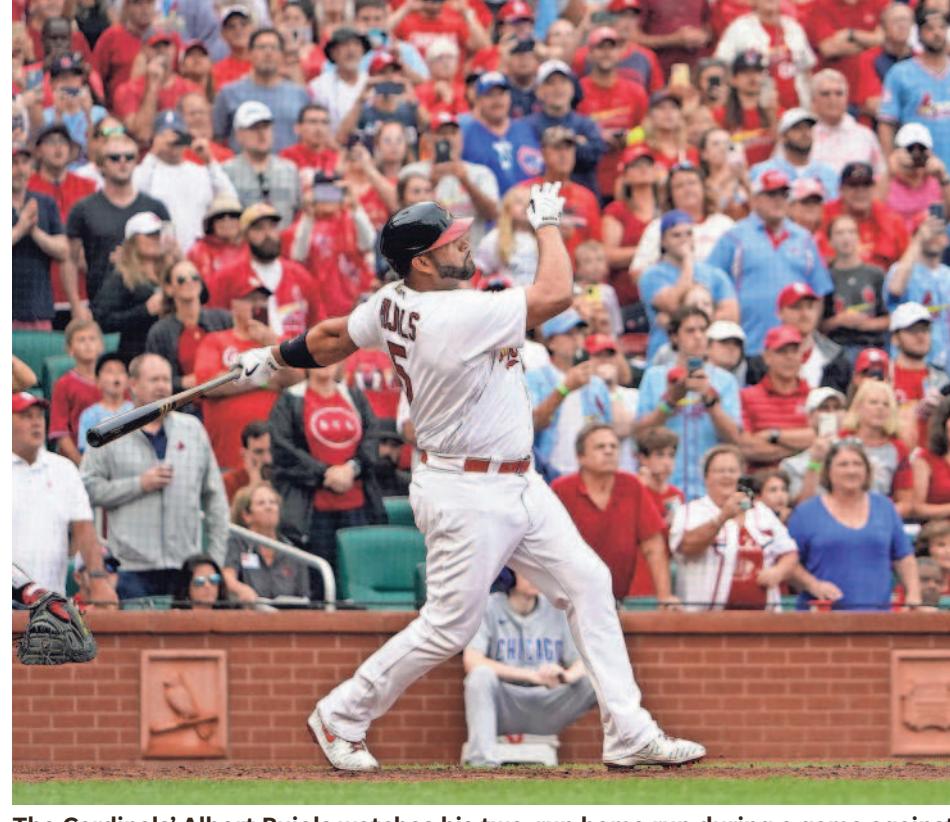
It was just last year, after Castro signed with the Pirates and climbed every laborious rung on the minor league ladder, that he learned there was nothing to fear. The Pirates were playing the Dodgers and Castro had drawn a fifth-inning walk.

"Pujols was playing first base," he said, "and we just had a brief conversation, and he gave me a really warm welcome into the big leagues and just congratulated me. And then that same series, the next day during BP, I was able to run into him and I approached him and just told him what a pleasure it was to meet him and what a great honor it was to be able to play on the same field as him. He was very warm with me and encouraged me."

Walk through any big league clubhouse and you're bound to come across someone with a similar Pujols story – a shared laugh during batting practice, a chance meeting in the offseason, an opportunity to work with him in the community. They are shared freely as the erstwhile star tries to hit the five more homers he needs for 700 in his career.

More often than not, though, the stories have to do with the way Pujols inspired an entire generation of baseball players, and particularly Latino kids, who saw him rise from humble roots in the Dominican Republic to dominate the game.

"It was very special, mostly because it was unexpected," Castro said of their moment in August 2021. "I had so many mixed emotions. I was so nervous, getting to meet him, but it was special. It



The Cardinals' Albert Pujols watches his two-run home run during a game against the Cubs on Sunday in St. Louis. JEFF ROBERSON/AP

was something I'll never forget."

The story of Albert Pujols remains downright Dickensian.

He was raised mostly by his grandmother and a large collection of aunts and uncles in Santo Domingo, the capital on the southern coast of the Dominican Republic. And when he speaks of his humble roots, Pujols often recalls using a makeshift glove fashioned out of a milk crate and whatever fruit was available to practice the game he grew to love.

Pujols immigrated with his family to New York in 1996, then moved to the Kansas City suburb of Independence, where his high school coach at Fort Osage, Dave Fry, once called him "a gift from the baseball gods."

Nothing he's done over the next two decades could persuade anyone otherwise.

Pujols played briefly for Maple Woods Community College before he was drafted by St. Louis – much to the everlasting chagrin of Royals fans.

They still lament the fact that an 11-time All-Star, who grew up in the shad-

ow of Kauffman Stadium, would win two World Series and play the majority of his career for the Cardinals.

Along the way, Pujols showed Latino players from the most modest of backgrounds that they could be something.

"Pujols is someone that not only I but my entire country, we admire a lot. We respect him deeply," said 23-year-old Pirates shortstop Oneil Cruz, who grew up down the coast from Santo Domingo in the small city of Nizao. "Something that I've admired most out of Pujols is that the goals he sets, he achieves them. As a young ballplayer, that speaks measures to me, because it shows me that I'm able to do this."

To the surprise of many, Pujols is still doing it. After three National League MVPs, six Silver Sluggers and two Gold Gloves, it seemed as if time was finally catching up to the 42-year-old Pujols. The decade he spent playing for the Los Angeles Angels was a largely overwhelming coda to the 12 superlative years he spent in St. Louis, and many believed the stint he played with the Dodgers that culminated in a trip to the

NL Championship Series last year was a fitting way to head off into retirement.

Pujols had other ideas, though. He wanted to return to St. Louis, where he remained beloved by fans, and reunite with longtime pitcher Adam Wainwright and catcher Yadier Molina for one last run.

And here they are: first place in the NL Central. Pujols has played a big part in it, too. He was hitting .266 with 16 homers and 43 RBIs entering Thursday's game against Washington, leaving him five homers shy of joining Barry Bonds, Hank Aaron and Babe Ruth in the 700 club.

"I'm happy he's healthy and doing what he knows he can do," Molina said, while on TVs around the Cardinals clubhouse, a panel on MLB Network debated the topic: "Is Albert Pujols the best baseball player of this century?"

"It would be special for every guy here in the clubhouse," Molina said of the 700 milestone. "I hope he can do it."

Regardless of whether he does, Pujols insists this will be his final season. Yet rather than doing a victory lap around the league, and getting feted everywhere he plays, Pujols has taken a businesslike approach to every night at the park.

Still, there are moments when the magnitude of it all has caught up to him. One came last week, when Pujols was called upon to pinch hit against the longtime-rival Chicago Cubs, and he stepped out of the dugout to a Busch Stadium roar.

"I've been energized by these fans for 12 years in my career, including the playoffs, but on Friday, I felt something different," Pujols admitted a couple of days later. "I don't know what it was, but I felt it. I shared it with my family, and I shared it with my kids who were here, and I was like, 'Wow, this was different.'"

It was a moment that felt different for a lot of people in the ballpark that night.

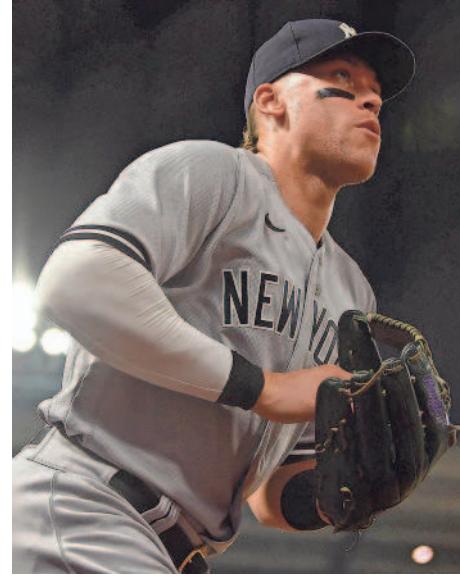
Then again, Pujols has always been a different player.

"There are times when you take a step back from being locked into the game and you get to be a fan for a minute, and experience it the way everybody else does, and that was one of them," Cardinals manager Oliver Marmon said. "You take a moment and take it all in because what he's doing is absolutely incredible."

Judge putting up undeniable numbers



Gabe Lacques
Columnist
USA TODAY



Aaron Judge has already set his career-high in home runs.

GARY A. VASQUEZ/USA TODAY SPORTS

The charismatic slugger is lapping the field in production, threatening records, and achieving at a level that forces the baseball aficionado to hunt through grainy newsreels to find comparable talent.

Yes, Shohei Ohtani continues to wow us with his two-way exploits. But today, we're talking about Aaron Judge.

The two are cooking up a nifty little race for the American League Most Valuable Player award, an honor that already puts the "suss" in subjective given the wide array of voting philosophies and occasional ballot malfunctions that can occur among the 30 electors.

This isn't a screed on "unfair" or "ill-considered" ballots, though. As it stands now, there's no wrong answer when it comes to Judge vs. Ohtani, just as there's no singular manner that "value" can be defined.

And Ohtani proved last year that MVPs can finish next-to-last in the standings.

He outpointed Vlad Guerrero Jr. with a season like no other – 46 homers and a .965 OPS at the plate, 156 strikeouts, nine wins, a 3.18 ERA and nearly 11 strikeouts per nine innings. The vote was unanimous, as it should have been.

Now it's 2022, and Ohtani is even more of a problem. Trouble is, so is that AL MVP field.

Ohtani has already blown away his '21 strikeout total, fanning 181 and averaging a major league best 12 per nine innings. He's trimmed his ERA to 2.58 and won 13 games, if that's your jam. He's added a 100-mph sinker. Oh, and has pounded 32 home runs, putting a second consecutive 40-homer season well within reach.

(Here's a fun fact: Since Babe Ruth is Ohtani's forever comp, Ohtani's adjust-

media work and how we process statistics and narratives into a consumable stew.

That said, we can't lose sight of arguably the most impressive part of Judge's season: He's doing it in a season, and an era, where it's exceedingly difficult to hit.

He struck his 54th home run by Labor Day, putting him on pace to hit 64, and it's a bit of a shame we became so numb to big home run numbers thanks to the game's overtly chemically enhanced era (which produced the National League home run trinity of Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa), along with various juiced-ball seasons that, generally, desensitized us to the long ball.

Well, it's time we wake up a bit, because Judge is doing it into some pretty severe headwinds.

Home runs are down again, to just 1.07 per team game after peaking at 1.39 in the juiced-ball season of 2019. It's the lowest home run rate since 2015, when teams managed 1.01 per game. Yet the league-wide batting average that year was .254, just before shifts became even more prevalent and everyone from sluggers to slap-hitting infielders realized selling out for power was where the production – and the highest pay – could be found.

This year? The league-wide batting average is .243, a 3% drop from '15 and a depth not reached since 1967.

Yet Judge is outkicking the competition in every facet.

He's going to top 60 home runs in a year nobody in the AL will hit more than 40, all while batting .302 and getting on base at a .403 clip. His adjusted OPS of 204 is more than 100% better than the league average and would be the highest mark since Bonds' 263 in 2004. In fact, Bonds and McGwire are the lone players to top 200 in adjusted OPS since George Brett's 203 mark in 1980.

His weighted runs created plus, perhaps the chicest measuring tool these days, is 202, again far beyond league average and well above No. 2 Paul

Goldschmidt of St. Louis (189). Houston's Yordan Alvarez (178) is No. 2 in the AL.

It's the home runs, though, that truly paint this season in a historic light.

When Maris and Mickey Mantle battled to break Ruth's record of 60 longballs in 1961, they had a good deal of company within shouting distance. Mantle finished with 54 homers. Harmon Killebrew and Jim Gentile each hit 46. Rocky Colavito hit 45. Norm Cash hit 41 longballs, batted .361 with a 1.148 OPS – and later admitted to corking his bat.

In the AL, only Ohtani might reach 40. Kyle Schwarber, Paul Goldschmidt, Austin Riley (36-35-34, respectively) could get there in the NL. That's an eon away from Judge.

That gap takes on a Ruthian tone when you consider that when the Bambino hit 60 in 1927, teammate Lou Gehrig smacked 47 of his own. From there, it dropped down to Hack Wilson and Cy Williams at 30 in the NL (fellow Yankee Tony Lazzeri was third in the AL with 18). Judge figures to put a larger gap between he and No. 2 than you'd expect from the Roaring '20s.

We won't belabor how Judge has at times singlehandedly kept the Yankees offense viable as they hang on in a pennant race. Or how he's playing for a contract next year, after the Yankees decided to reveal the specifics of a \$213 million offer they tendered in the spring.

Judge will blow away that number this winter, just as he'll blow away the major league field in home runs, and probably Maris, Mantle and Ruth along the way. It's fair and just and right that Ohtani backers counter with his many contributions from the mound, how the Wins Above Replacement may stack up, how his unbelievable focus allows him to do two jobs for the price of one.

That's fine. And if you fill out your real or imagined ballot with Ohtani on top, it's wholly appropriate.

But let's not lose sight of the fact that Judge, too, is making history worthy of a look deep into the record books.

MLB

‘He goes out and gives it’

Burly ace Manoah leading Blue Jays to playoff berth



Gabe Lacques
Columnist
USA TODAY

In a wonderful coincidence, Alek Manoah recently found himself on a rare road trip to Pittsburgh with a timely night off that allowed him to revel in the star he's become, and dream of bigger stages still.

Before he was the hulking, fearless ace for the Toronto Blue Jays, Manoah was the biggest man on campus for West Virginia's baseball team, seemingly having a better chance at wrestling a bear than a coach would wrestling the ball from him in the late innings. Last week, when his Blue Jays made their first interleague trip to the Steel City since 2014, it coincided with the renewal of the Backyard Brawl, pitting the Mountaineers football team against Pitt for the first time since 2011.

And Manoah, in his first full big league season that included a star turn at July's All-Star Game, was greeted justly.

He roamed the sidelines like a big dog, greeting old friends and making new ones. They made sure he was introduced to ESPN's GameDay crew, which already knew him well. And as he glanced around the former Heinz Field and the 70,000 fans packing it, his thoughts quickly returned to competing.

“The energy was amazing,” he says. “To feel that great atmosphere – I kind of wanted to go pitch in front of that crowd.”

Of course he did.

Baseball may never afford Manoah a setting so large, but it's clear he wouldn't shirk from it. While the Blue Jays are increasingly a star-studded collection of multi-generational talents and nine-figure superstars, it is Manoah who may prove to be their lead blocker as they aim to upset the balance of power in the American League.

After winning three of four games in Baltimore, Toronto holds a 4½-game lead for the final AL wild card spot with 26 games remaining, its return to the playoffs for the first time in a full season since 2016 growing likelier by the day. The Blue Jays figure to hit the road for a best-of-three wild-card series, and likelier still that they hand the ball to Manoah to set the tone in a hostile environment.

Such an assignment would require an ace's talent, but also a certain defiant streak, impervious to the stakes and the hostile crowd around them.

Say, a 6-6, 285-pounder with four elite pitches, who ranks in the AL's top four in innings, ERA and WHIP while giving no quarter regardless of opponent's pedigree.

“He doesn't take (expletive) from anyone and he goes out and gives it,” says Jordan Romano, who has racked up 30 saves for the Blue Jays this season. “Whenever he starts, it's like an event.”



Alek Manoah was a first-time All-Star in 2022. JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/USA TODAY SPORTS

It's Manoah Day. He always brings the energy. You know he's going to compete with everything he's got and you've seen all year how well it's been going for him. It's always a special game when he throws. When he's out there, it feels a little more.”

‘Put ‘em to sleep early’

Manoah did not hesitate to step toward Yankees ace Gerrit Cole after the \$324 million pitcher vaulted a dugout rail and stepped on the field when tensions ran high in a recent game. Manoah, who had hit Aaron Judge with a pitch, dared Cole to come out to the mound and after, famously quipped, “He can come past the Audi sign next time.”

Tuesday, the Blue Jays engaged in a benches-clearing incident with the Orioles after their former teammate, Bryan Baker, continued a pattern of gesturing toward Toronto players after recording outs. Baltimore won the game and afterward, Manoah lingered in the dugout watching the Orioles' celebration, pondering his assignment the next night.

Manoah made his stand Wednesday, holding the Orioles to one run and three hits over eight innings, handing the baton directly to Romano in a 4-1 win. Manoah retired 22 of the final 23 batters he faced, ensuring Toronto took three of four in the series and that their playoff cushion was 4½ games, not 2½.

“He has a really unique ability to take things in and use it for fuel, use it for motivation, but he does it in the right way,” says Blue Jays interim manager John Schneider. “He channels it very well and he keeps his emotions in check.”

Or, as Manoah put it: “Attack. Put ‘em

to sleep early and get on the plane.”

And then some. Manoah's 2.42 ERA ranks fourth in the AL, as does his 0.99 WHIP. While franchises are typically cautious with young pitchers and their innings history, Manoah, 24, has been outspoken in his desire to perform like an old-school horse. He ranks second in the AL in innings pitched with 171 – already 41 innings more than his combined total in 2021, and trailing Cole by just one-third of an inning for the AL lead.

‘He’s our guy’

The 2021 Blue Jays were a fascinating bunch, not allowed to play at home until July due to coronavirus restrictions and then rallying to finish just one win behind the division rival Yankees and Boston Red Sox for a playoff berth. The expanded playoffs all but ensures entry this season.

“Last year, we missed it by a game. And we truly felt that in the second half, we were the best team in baseball,” says Manoah, who debuted on May 27 and won nine games for the 91-win squad. “If we would have got in, we would have done damage. The goal this year was to take every game with huge focus, not try to put too much pressure on each game but understand that all games do matter, to have that focal point.”

“No matter how young we are, we want to win as much as possible. We truly felt like we missed it last year. And we don't want to miss it again.”

Despite his youth and that he's not yet played a full season, Manoah stands out in a veteran clubhouse featuring \$150 million center fielder George Springer and second-generation stars Bo Bichette and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. Manoah, a Miami native, is certainly

more outwardly brash than the aforementioned stars.

Yet he won them over quickly.

For Bichette, it came in spring training 2021, when he made a pair of starts in short order against the Yankees, pitching five combined innings and giving up just one hit. In the latter outing, he struck out seven in three innings.

“It wasn't necessarily the results,” Bichette recalls, “it was more about you could tell he knew he belonged.”

As if to drive that point home, Manoah made his major league debut at Yankee Stadium that May and dominated: Six shutout innings, seven strikeouts, two hits.

“After that one,” remembers Romano, “I was like, wow, this guy's first outing in Yankee Stadium coming in like that kind of showed me who he was. And really just kept it going from there.”

The dominance continued this season: Manoah has already won 14 games and won over a good portion of North America with a command performance while mic-ed up during the All-Star Game. His cocksure manner and exuberance – “Three punches!” he proclaimed as he struck out the side – left an indelible mark on the game.

His persona is a bit more menacing in the games that count. Manoah won't break Statcast anytime soon but can run his fastball up to 95 mph. Combined with his tall frame, freakish flexibility and athletic ability, the ball jumps on hitters in a hurry.

And then there's the intangibles.

Should the Blue Jays reach the AL Division Series, they'll get at least two home games at Rogers Centre, which can cram 45,000 fans. It is one of baseball's biggest stages, an appropriate setting to fulfill Manoah's big-game dreams.

MLB set to announce pitch clocks, shift limits

Ronald Blum
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK – Major League Baseball is set to announce a pitch clock and limits on defensive shifts next season in an effort to shorten games and increase offense.

The sport's 11-man competition committee is set to adopt the rules changes Friday, mandating a clock that will count down 15 seconds with no runners on base and 20 seconds with runners. The MLB clock will be slightly longer than the version experimented with in the minor leagues this season: 14 seconds with the bases empty and 19 seconds with runners on at Triple-A, and 14/18 at lower levels.

“It's something that takes a while to get used to, but I think overall the impact it had on the pace of the game was good,” said the Yankees' Matt Carpenter, who spent April at Triple-A with Round Rock.

The shift limit will require four players other than the pitcher and the catcher to be in front of the outfield grass when a pitch is thrown, including two of the four on either side of second base,

In addition, there will be a limit during each plate appearance of two pickoff attempts or steps off the rubber, what MLB calls disengagements. If a third attempt is made and is unsuccessful, a balk would be called. The limit would be reset to two during a plate appearance if a runner advances.

Size of bases will increase to 18-inch squares from 15, promoting safety – first basemen are less likely to get stepped on – but also boosting stolen bases and offense with a slightly decreased distance.

The plans, first reported by The Athletic, were detailed by a pair of baseball officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because the changes were not scheduled to be announced until Friday.

The changes will be start during

spring training.

A catcher will be required to be in the catcher's box with nine seconds left on the clock and a hitter in the batter's box and focused on the pitcher with eight seconds remaining. Penalties for violations will be a ball called against a pitcher and a strike called against a batter.

Time between half-innings will set at 2:15 for most regular-season games, 2:40 for nationally televised games and 3:10 for postseason games. The clock will be 30 seconds between batters.

A batter can ask an umpire for time once per plate appearance, and after that it would be granted only at umpire's discretion if request is made while in box.

The clock has reduced the average time of a nine-inning game in the minor leagues from 3:04 in 2021 to 2:38 this season. The average time of a nine-inning game in the major leagues this year is 3:06 – it was 2:46 in 1989, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

“It's slow. It's boring,” Yankees pitcher CC Sabathia said of a TV broadcast in 2017. “Man, it's so hard to watch if you have no interest in it.”

Shifts have been limited all season at Double-A and Class A, where teams are required to have four players on the infield, including two on each side of second base. Use of shifts has exploded in the past decade, from 2,357 times on balls hit in play in 2011 to 28,130 in 2016 and 59,063 last year, according to Sports Info Solutions. Shifts are on pace for 68,000 this season.

The big league batting average of .243 this year is on track to be the lowest since 1967, two years before the pitcher's mound was lowered from 15 inches to 10.

Players had long resisted a clock at the major league level. Management gained the right in March's lockout settlement to establish the 11-person committee, which includes six management representatives, four players and one umpire.

TENNIS

Swiatek, Jabeur will meet in 1st US Open final for both

No. 1 Swiatek rallies after losing opening set

Howard Fendrich

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK – Getting to a Grand Slam final is no longer new to Ons Jabeur. She figures it's time to add a major trophy to her list of groundbreaking accomplishments.

And she's sure she is more ready to do it at the U.S. Open than she was at Wimbledon two months ago.

Jabeur reached a second consecutive Slam title match without needing to produce her best tennis Thursday night, taking full advantage of a shaky showing by Caroline Garcia to win their semifinal at Flushing Meadows 6-1, 6-3.

"Feels more real, to be honest with you, just to be in the final again. At Wimbledon, I was kind of just living the dream, and I couldn't believe it," Jabeur said after ending No. 17 Garcia's 13-match winning streak, which included a victory over 18-year-old American Coco Gauff in the quarterfinals. "Now just, I hope, I'm getting used to it. ... Now maybe I know what to do."

On Saturday, with a championship on the line, Jabeur will go up against No. 1-ranked Iga Swiatek, who grabbed the last four games, and 16 of the last 20 points, to come back and beat No. 6 Aryna Sabalenka 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 in the second semifinal.

The first step for Swiatek to turn things around came when she headed to the locker room after the first set – to use the bathroom and think about what to adjust on court.

"I needed to get it together," said Swiatek, a 21-year-old from Poland who already owns two trophies from the French Open's red clay, including one this year, but never had been past the fourth round on New York's hard courts.

Sabalenka, meanwhile, dropped to 0-3 in Slam semifinals for her career and 12-11 in three-setters this year. She broke for a 4-2 lead in the third set – and 17 minutes it was over.

Swiatek has emerged as a dominant figure in women's tennis this year, with a 37-match winning streak and six titles. If she can defeat Jabeur, Swiatek will become the first woman since Angelique Kerber to win two major championships in one season.

The No. 5-seeded Jabeur, a 28-year-old from Tunisia, was the runner-up at the All England Club in July and now will be the first African woman to participate in a final at the U.S. Open in the professional era, which dates to 1968.

"After Wimbledon, (there was) a lot of pressure on me," Jabeur said following a win that took barely more than an hour, "and I'm really relieved that I can back up my results."

The men's semifinals are Friday: No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz of Spain vs. No. 22 Frances Tiafoe of the United States, and No. 5 Casper Ruud of Norway vs. No. 27 Karen Khachanov of Russia.

With four-time major champion Arantxa Sánchez Vicario in her guest box – they traded thumbs-up signals at match's end – Jabeur improved to 6-0 in semifinals this season and earned her tour-leading 92nd victory in all since the start of 2021. No. 91 came when she defeated Ajla Tomljanovic, who eliminated Serena Williams in the third round.

To Jabeur's surprise, and delight, she heard her quarterfinal victory over Tomljanovic on Tuesday was drawing viewers back home, even though it was on TV the same night as a Champions League game between Juventus and Paris St. Germain.

"In Tunisia, it's all about soccer," she said. "But people were not watching the game, they were watching my game, which is impressive to me."

That's part of the way in which she is changing views about tennis in her country – and on a continent.

Since pro players were first admitted to major tennis tournaments, never had an African woman or Arab woman been to a Slam final until she did that two months ago at Wimbledon, where she ended up losing to Elena Rybakina.

In 2020, at the Australian Open, she became the first Arab woman to reach the quarterfinals at a major. Last year produced all sorts of milestones: first Arab player to break into the top 10 of the men's or women's rankings; first Arab to win a WTA title.

"Definitely saying out loud what I want to do is part of me achieving things," said Jabeur, who dropped to her knees and let out a yell when the semi-



Iga Swiatek, of Poland, reacts after defeating Aryna Sabalenka, of Belarus, on Thursday in New York. FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP



Ons Jabeur hits a volley against Caroline Garcia during the women's singles semifinals at the U.S. Open on Thursday. DANIELLE PARHIZKARAN/USA TODAY SPORTS

final against Garcia ended, then followed that up by laying on her back in the middle of the court.

"I'm sure it's a lot of pressure on her shoulders," said Garcia, a 28-year-old from France. "But she looks like to be managing it really well."

On this evening under the lights in Arthur Ashe Stadium, Jabeur paid attention to her coach's instruction to focus on going after Garcia's backhand and finished with 21 winners – after one that was aided by a fortuitous bounce off the top of the net, Jabeur put up a hand to apologize, then blew a kiss to the sky – and just 15 unforced errors.

She delivered eight aces. She went 4 for 4 on break chances and never faced a single one.

When Jabeur went up a break in the second to lead 3-1 merely 40 minutes in, the match was not yet won, but it might as well have been.

After a moment of silence to com-

memorate the death of Queen Elizabeth II, Garcia won the coin toss and chose to serve, which made sense when you consider that she leads the tour in aces in 2022 (although hit just two on Thursday).

But Garcia got broken right away, thanks to four mistakes of various sorts – a netted forehand, a wide forehand, a long backhand and, most concerning and perhaps most reflective of nerves, what should have been an easy put-away volley she barely managed to make contact with and dumped into the bottom of the net.

It was a rather inauspicious and jittery start for Garcia, who hadn't lost a set at Flushing Meadows on the way to her debut in a Slam semifinal.

"Mentally," said Jabeur, who travels with a sports psychologist, "I was so ready."

She plans to be again on Saturday. Swiatek will stand in the way.

Doubles team advances to final, goes for repeat

Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury will play for a second straight U.S. Open men's doubles title after fighting off the Colombian team of Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah.

The top seeds won 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (6) in a match that lasted 3 hours, 12 minutes.

That put the American Ram and Britain's Salisbury a win away from joining only Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde as teams to defend a U.S. Open men's doubles title in the professional era, dating to 1968. The Hall of Famers from Australia won in 1995 and 1996.

In Friday's final, Ram and Salisbury will meet the No. 2-seeded team of Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski, who downed the third-seeded duo of Marcelo Arevalo and Jean-Julien Rojer 6-4, 7-5.

Looking to Friday

There are four debut U.S. Open men's semifinalists, the first time that's happened since the first year of the event in 1881, when it was known as the U.S. Championships. One of them is Frances Tiafoe, the first American man to get that far at his home Grand Slam tournament since Andy Roddick in 2006. The No. 22 seed faces No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz in the evening semifinal, after No. 5 Casper Ruud plays No. 27 Karen Khachanov in the afternoon.

Ruud is the only one who has previously reached this stage in a major, losing to Rafael Nadal in this year's French Open final. The Norwegian would reach No. 1 in the rankings if he wins and Alcaraz loses. Alcaraz, 19, would become the youngest No. 1 if he wins and Ruud loses. He'll have to summon enough energy after playing consecutive five-set matches, including his quarterfinal victory over Jannik Sinner that took 5 hours, 15 minutes and finished at 2:50 a.m., the latest ending in U.S. Open history.

— Associated Press

WNBA PLAYOFFS



The Sun's DeWanna Bonner begins to celebrate the team's 72-63 win over the Sky in Game 5 of a WNBA playoff semifinal series on Thursday in Chicago. PHOTOS BY CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

Sun assure WNBA will have new champion

Connecticut will face Aces in WNBA Finals

Nancy Armour
USA TODAY

The Connecticut Sun has no interest in going along with anyone else's narrative.

The Sun went on a 16-0 run to end the game Thursday night, spoiling the Chicago Sky's hopes of becoming the first team in 20 years to repeat as champions and preventing the WNBA Finals matchup that almost everyone had expected.

After Thursday night's 72-63 win, the Sun will now play the top-seeded Las Vegas Aces in the Finals, which begin Sunday afternoon in Las Vegas.

"You can't deny what this means for both teams tonight," Connecticut coach Curt Miller said before the game. "At the same time, we both are striving to impose our will. To be us. And who can be truer to themselves is a big part of trying to come away with the win."

And that was the Sun. Miller has said often that the Sun needed the games to be "messy" in order to have a chance against Chicago, which finished the regular season with the same record as Las Vegas and has one of the most potent starting lineups in the league with Candace Parker, Kahleah Copper, Courtney Vandersloot and Allie



Connecticut's Courtney Williams passes behind her back as Chicago's Emma Meesseman defends during the first half.

Quigley.

Messy doesn't begin to describe the finish. Murderous, perhaps.

Chicago had dropped back-to-back games just once this season, and despite a slow start, didn't seem to be in danger of changing that record. Copper, last year's Finals MVP, scored nine of Chicago's 13 points at the end of the second quarter to tie the game at the half.

Chicago opened the third quarter with a mini, 5-point run, and Copper and Parker made back-to-back 3s to

push the Chicago lead to 51-46. Then, Chicago appeared to finish the Sun off with the next possession.

Vandersloot stole the ball and heaved it to Parker, who sprinted downcourt before making a perfect dish to Copper. Copper then scored on a driving layup and drew a foul. She converted the three-point play and Chicago led 54-46 with 4:14 left in the third.

But Chicago didn't score after Copper's layup with 4:46 left to play, and Connecticut simply refused to lose.

IN BRIEF

Chelsea hires Graham Potter as manager, replacing Tuchel

Chelsea's new American owners took a gamble with the first managerial appointment of their tenure, hiring Graham Potter from Premier League rival Brighton on Thursday despite his lack of experience coaching at soccer's highest level.

The 47-year-old Potter agreed to a five-year deal as the replacement for Thomas Tuchel, who was fired on Wednesday after an apparent breakdown in his relationship with Chelsea's recently installed ownership team fronted by Los Angeles Dodgers part-owner Todd Boehly.

While Tuchel won the Champions League with Chelsea last year and previously ran a locker room of soccer superstars – such as Kylian Mbappé and Neymar – at Paris Saint-Germain, Potter has a more obscure coaching past and has won only one trophy, the Swedish Cup in 2017.

Chelsea said Potter would bring "progressive football and innovative coaching" to the club, while Boehly said the new coach "fits our vision."

Miller, Lamoureux twins elected to US Hockey Hall of Fame

Longtime NHL goaltender Ryan Miller and Olympic gold medal-winning women's hockey stars Jocelyne Lamoureux-Davidson and Monique Lamoureux-Morando headline the 2022 class of the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame unveiled Thursday.

Three-time Paralympic gold medal-winning sled hockey goalie Steve Cash and late USA Hockey executive Jim Johansson were also elected. They'll all be inducted at a ceremony in St. Paul, Minnesota on Nov. 30.

Miller backstopped the U.S. to the final of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, and his 391 regular-season NHL victories are the most among American-born goalies.

The Lamoureux twins helped the U.S. beat Canada for gold at the 2018 Games in Pyeongchang.

CFP committee digs into feasibility of early expansion

DALLAS – In a meeting room just down the hall from where the plan for a 12-team College Football Playoff came to life almost 2½ years ago, the conference commissioners who manage the postseason system finally began the next phase of expansion: implementation.

The 11-member management committee gathered Thursday for 4½ hours at a hotel in the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport for the first time since their bosses voted last week to expand the CFP from four to 12 teams.

The frustrations and hard-feelings that hung over expansion talks most of last fall, and led to some icy gatherings, have seemingly been lifted. The goal is to sort through myriad issues and have a new format in place for the 2024 season.

It's unclear whether there is still time to accomplish that, but at least now everybody involved appears to be pulling in the same direction.

"It's like when you wait in a long line," American Athletic Conference Commissioner Mike Aresco said. "You finally get there, and you kind of forget about the long wait."

— Associated Press

GOLF ROUNDUP

Lin has 9 birdies for a 64 at Kroger Queen City

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CINCINNATI – Xiyu "Janet" Lin of China opened with five birdies in six holes, birdied all but one of the par 5s and had an 8-under 64 on Thursday for a one-shot lead over Nasa Hataoka in the Kroger Queen City Championship.

The LPGA Tour returned to Cincinnati for the first time in 33 years and was greeted with a gorgeous day and plenty of good scoring at Kenwood Country Club.

That included a remarkable performance by 14-year-old Gianna Clemente, who made it through Monday qualifying for the third week in a row on the LPGA Tour and this time has a chance to play all four days. Clemente played bogey-free for a 70.

It did not include Lexi Thompson. One week after she played in the final group and didn't make a birdie until the 18th hole to tie for 16th, Thompson didn't make a single birdie in her round of 76, her highest of the year at a regular LPGA event. She had a 77 at Muirfield when she missed the cut in the Women's Brit-

ish Open.

Lin is coming off a tie for seventh at the Dana Open, showing signs of life after a good start to the year. Playing in the afternoon, she opened with three straight birdies on the back nine, made par, and then added two more birdies.

"That was a dream start. You can't ask for a better start," Lin said. "So I just tell myself, 'Need to keep going.'"

Her lone bogey came on the par-4 seventh toward the end of her round, and she responded with her ninth birdie of the round to regain the lead over Hataoka.

"I still do need to adjust my tee shots, but other than that, my iron and putting is good. I just have to keep that going," Hataoka said.

The surprise was Clemente, who splits time between her native Ohio and Florida and lost in the championship match of the U.S. Junior Girls this year.

She got through Monday qualifying for Canada and missed the cut, then did it again for the Dana Open outside Toledo and missed the cut.

For her third straight start, the teen-

ager made only two birdies and very few mistakes. And she wasn't entirely satisfied.

"I feel good about it. Could have been a little better. I can think of a couple putts that maybe I should have made," Clemente said. "But it was all right. I definitely know that I can go lower than that, so I'm going to go work on my putting a little bit and we'll get that fixed up a little bit and hopefully it'll be lower tomorrow."

Former U.S. Women's Open champion A Lim Kim and Sarah Kemp were at 66, while the group at 67 included Athaya Thitikul of Thailand and former Women's PGA champion Sei Young Kim.

The most exciting round belonged to Paula Creamer in her second tournament back from having her first baby. She shot a 72 that was far from even. Creamer holed out from 104 yards with a gap wedge for an eagle on par-4 fifth hole. Three holes later, Creamer made a hole-in-one with a 7-iron.

That's two eagles in one round, along with three birdies. But she also had five bogeys and a double bogey, and had to

settle for at least being inside the cut line going into Friday.

BMW PGA Championship

VIRGINIA WATER, England – Play was suspended late in the first round of the BMW PGA Championship on the European tour on Thursday following the announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth II at the age of 96.

Thirty of the 144 players in the field had yet to finish their first rounds at Wentworth.

The tour said there would be no play on Friday and flags at the club were lowered to half-mast "out of respect for Her Majesty and the Royal Family."

"Further updates on the resumption of play will be provided in due course," the tour said.

Tommy Fleetwood, Andy Sullivan and Viktor Hovland shared the clubhouse lead after shooting 8-under 64s. English golfer Matthew Jordan was a shot further back after a round of 65.

Fleetwood birdied six of his final seven holes.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Oklahoma quarterback Dillon Gabriel transferred from UCF in time to take part in spring practice and earn the starting role. SUE OGROCKI/AP

Transfers shake up QB landscape

Stephen Hawkins

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spencer Rattler, Chandler Morris and Tanner Mordecai were all once in the same quarterbacks room at Oklahoma.

A couple of years ago, JT Daniels and Kedon Slovis were studying the Southern California playbook together.

All are now starting for different programs. And they are only a few examples of the increased mobility of quarterbacks because of the transfer portal and the extra season of eligibility for players who were part of pandemic-altered 2020 season.

There are more opportunities, and more time, for quarterbacks to seek different situations. Sometimes that means being QB1 elsewhere for coaches looking to fill gaps, make changes – or both.

"You guys are smart enough to know we changed a lot of things offensively," Kansas State coach Chris Klieman said after four-year Nebraska starter Adrian Martinez made his debut with the Wildcats. "I mean, we were not what you saw last year or even some in the bowl, and we were tempo most of the time."

About half of the starting quarterbacks for the 131 Football Bowl Subdivision teams in this season's openers didn't initially attend their current schools.

That includes 32 of the 65 Power Five teams – with 19 of those first-year transfers like Martinez and Emory Jones at Arizona State.

68 of the 131 FBS teams started a transfer quarterback in the season opener.

"My mindset when I came here was, 'I'm going to be the starter.' That's how I conducted myself every day," said Jones, a 12-game starter for Florida last season who didn't get to Tempe until the summer.

Jones went through only two spring practices with new Gators coach Billy Napier before going into the transfer portal. Arizona State coach Herm Edwards needed a new quarterback after three-year Sun Devils starter Jayden Daniels suddenly left for LSU, where he now starts.

Now circle back to Oklahoma, which has seen four quarterbacks leave and start for other schools.

That exodus left room for Dillon Gabriel to transfer from UCF in time for spring practice with the Sooners and new coach Brent Venables.

"He was very literally minutes away from him to have to make a decision without visiting," Venables said. "We had a Zoom call. It was a very pressure-filled Zoom call. He had to make the call, and I'm just thankful that he did."

Gabriel made the move up from a Group of Five school, though UCF joins the Big 12 next season.

But most of the 68 FBS transfer quarterbacks who started 2022 openers

were from Power Five programs – with 27 from other P5 schools, and 19 others now with G5 teams.

Nine of those transfers switched G5 schools.

Caleb Williams, who as a true freshman replaced Rattler as the Oklahoma starter midway through last season, followed coach Lincoln Riley to Southern Cal. Rattler went to South Carolina. Those departures from Norman came about a year after Mordecai (now the second-year starter at SMU) and Morris, who started TCU's opener last weekend.

The revolving door has been just as fast at Southern Cal and Georgia.

Three former Trojans quarterbacks now start for other teams.

The same goes for the reigning national champion Bulldogs – though Daniels, now at West Virginia, counts on both of those lists.

Daniels, who started 11 games for the Trojans as a true freshman in 2018, was the season-opening starter for Georgia last year before injuries sidelined him.

Slovis is now QB1 at Pittsburgh after 26 starts for USC the past three seasons. Jaxson Dart, who started three games as a freshman for the Trojans last year, transferred to Ole Miss.

D'Wan Mathis has started Temple's last two season openers after taking Georgia's first snap in 2020.

Matthew Downing appeared in four games as a Bulldogs freshman in 2018 and transferred to TCU, where he started the 2020 opener, before going to Lou-

isiana Tech with new coach Sonny Cumbie, his QB coach when with the Horned Frogs.

Seven of the 12 teams in the Pac-12 had a first-year transfer quarterback start their openers. The only of those transfers that didn't come from another Power Five school was Cameron Ward at Washington State.

Ward set school records with 6,908 yards and 71 touchdowns passing the past two seasons at Incarnate Word. His head coach at that FCS school in San Antonio was Eric Morris, now the offensive coordinator for the Cougars.

Jayden de Laura, the Pac-12's top offensive freshman at Washington State last season, stayed in the Pac-12 with a move to Arizona, where he struggled early in fall camp.

Coach Jedd Fisch said de Laura needed a lot of coaching to learn a whole new offensive system and different techniques.

In the Wildcats' season-opening 38-20 win at San Diego State, de Laura completed 22 of 35 passes for 299 yards and four touchdowns.

He never lost his confidence when learning the system.

"It starts from calling the plays. If you're calling the play and the whole huddle doesn't hear a confidence in your voice, then they're not going to trust you or want you back there," de Laura said. "And then the confidence in making throws, confidence in making reads, confidence off the field. It's needed to be a quarterback."

Swinney deal makes him second-highest paid coach

Todd Shanesy

Greenville News

USA TODAY NETWORK

Clemson's Dabo Swinney on Thursday received a massive new contract that makes him the second-highest paid coach in college football.

Swinney got a 10-year extension worth \$11.5 million per year, and it runs through the 2031 season.

He is behind only Nick Saban of Alabama and is now ahead of Kirby Smart of Georgia.

Swinney signed a 10-year, \$93 million contract in 2019.

Swinney's new deal was approved by the Clemson Board of Trustees.

Swinney has led Clemson to 10-win seasons for the past 11 years. During the past seven, the Tigers won two national championships and six consecutive ACC titles.

Clemson won its season opener Monday against Georgia Tech, 41-10, and will have its first home game Satur-

day against Furman.

"It is hard for me to believe I am in my 14th full season as your head coach, and I remain eternally grateful and honored for the opportunity to continue coaching and developing young people of excellence at Clemson," Swinney said in a statement released by the university. "This agreement is representative of what has been collectively built here and the success we've had both academically and athletically."

"... While I am certainly proud of our accomplishments on the field, the most rewarding part remains the relationships forged within this program and the ability to positively impact those around us."

Graham Neff, who became Clemson's athletics director in December, made it one of his priorities to get Swinney a new, long-term contract.

"Football is critical to the health of our athletic department, and we are very intentional and strategic about such, and he has been impactful to the

entire university and community," Neff said. "Coach Swinney's leadership allows us to continue to grow. And we got our guy, again."

"... Coach Swinney and his family's impact on our community and department cannot be understated and his success and stability nationally is truly uncommon. It is critical that Clemson continue to invest in our football program, and ensure our head coach is at Clemson for a long, long time. The best is yet to come."

Saban last month received an eight-year, \$93.6 million contract, an average of \$11.7 million per year, making him the highest-paid coach in college football. Saban was set to make \$9.9 million this season before the restructure.

Michigan State last year gave coach Mel Tucker a fully guaranteed 10-year, \$95 million contract.

Kirby Smart, after leading Georgia to last year's national championship, received a 10-year deal worth \$112.5 million.



Clemson coach Dabo Swinney talks with media in Clemson, S.C.

KEN RUINARD/USA TODAY NETWORK

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Another Pac-12 After Dark for Leach

Going through coach's wildest night games during his time at Washington State

Stefan Krajisnik
Mississippi Clarion Ledger
USA TODAY NETWORK

A late night awaits Mississippi State football. It's familiar territory for Mike Leach and much of his staff, and not only because of last week's prolonged night against Memphis.

"I thought I got away from Pac-12 After Dark," MSU special teams coach Eric Mele said. He was at Washington State throughout Leach's eight seasons.

Pac-12 After Dark is a magical place for college football fans where games have a knack for craziness as the clock approaches midnight on the East Coast.

Leach was the perfect fit. His personality paired with the Air Raid offense created a fine recipe for fans looking for wackiness before they headed to bed or purchased another round.

The late-night action has continued without Leach since 2019. But the wait is over. Mississippi State vs. Arizona (11 p.m. ET, FS1) is the latest game on Saturday's slate.

To get you prepared, let's relive Leach's wildest Pac-12 After Dark games.

UCLA beats Washington State 44-36 on Nov. 10, 2012: The Cougars went 3-9 in Leach's first season and lost four games by at least 20 points. After winning nine games the previous four seasons under Paul Wulff, WSU fans were used to losing.

They weren't used to games with two blocked field goals and a blocked punt in the first quarter.

"I was not coaching special teams at the time, I'll just say that," Mele, who was at WSU throughout Leach's tenure, said. "That was a ranked team. Just a really good team. We lost the game by eight and made some mistakes that could've swayed in our favor, but that kind of gave us some momentum actually."

The game concluded at 11:13 p.m. PT, and those on Eastern time (2:13 a.m.) had likely given up watching.

UCLA outscored WSU by 30 in the second quarter for a 37-7 halftime lead. The Cougars got within one score with nearly two minutes left, but fell short despite Connor Halliday's five passing touchdowns.

Washington State beats Boise State 47-44 (3 OT) on Sept. 9, 2017: Craig Powers attended WSU from 2003-2007 and has been working for Cougar Center, the WSU affiliate of SB Nation, since 2009. He remembers the excite-



Washington State head coach Mike Leach speaks to his team during a game against UCLA Bruins in 2019.

JAMES SNOOK/USA TODAY SPORTS

ment of the 2017 season, one where the Cougars were ranked every week, and the importance of the Week 2 matchup with Boise State.

If WSU could beat Boise State, Powers said, it could easily start 4-0. A 31-10 deficit with 10:53 left in regulation wasn't part of the plan.

A pair of passing touchdowns, the first by now-MSU wide receiver Jamire Calvin, sandwiched a pick-six from Peyton Pelluer who served as a volunteer assistant at MSU when Leach arrived.

The magnitude of the win, albeit at home against an unranked, resulted in a field storming around 1:42 a.m. CT.

"It was an epic comeback," Mele says.

Washington State beats Oregon State 54-53 on Nov. 23, 2019: This turned out to be Leach's final home game before departing WSU, so it had to be entertaining.

"It was a really wild game," Leach said postgame.

Washington State trailed by 11 with 4:17 remaining in the game — just five minutes after leading by 10.

Powers admits to not caring much

when WSU trimmed the deficit to five because he didn't think the Cougars' defense could respond with a stop. But they did, forcing a turnover on downs near midfield to set up a touchdown with two seconds remaining.

The game was called the Bowl Bowl,

Powers said, as both teams entered with

five wins. Running back Max Borghi, who scored the winning touchdown, predicted WSU would be bowl eligible after winning.

Cal beats Washington State 60-59 on Oct. 4, 2014: Rarely does a quarter-

back break the NCAA single-game passing record in a loss. Yet Connor Halliday walked off the field in defeat after throwing for 734 yards — a mark since matched by Patrick Mahomes.

Halliday went head-to-head with now-Detroit Lions quarterback Jared Goff. They combined for 1,261 passing yards and 11 touchdowns.

The game was high-scoring, but not unreasonably by halftime when WSU led 24-13. A 56-point third quarter changed everything, highlighted by this three-minute sequence: Washington

State passing touchdown. Cal kickoff return touchdown. Washington State passing touchdown. Cal kickoff return touchdown.

It ended with WSU's Quentin Breshers missing a 19-yard field goal on third down with 15 seconds left.

"I got promoted next week to coach special teams," Mele said.

UCLA beats Washington State 67-63 on Sept. 21, 2019: UCLA's 32-point second half comeback remains the third largest in FBS history.

Similar to Halliday's performance against Cal, Anthony Gordon's nine passing touchdowns came with a loss. The Cougars turned the ball over six times.

"What other bad memories you have?" Mele joked. "My grandparents died. My dog's dead. You want to talk about that?"

Powers left the game before its conclusion to avoid letting his frustration out in public. He returned to his tailgating area and helped clear out a beer cooler.

The game concluded at 11:27 p.m. PT.

Oklahoma State to face tough Arizona State defense

Cliff Brunt
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oklahoma State quarterback Spencer Sanders picked up where he left off last season in the opener against Central Michigan.

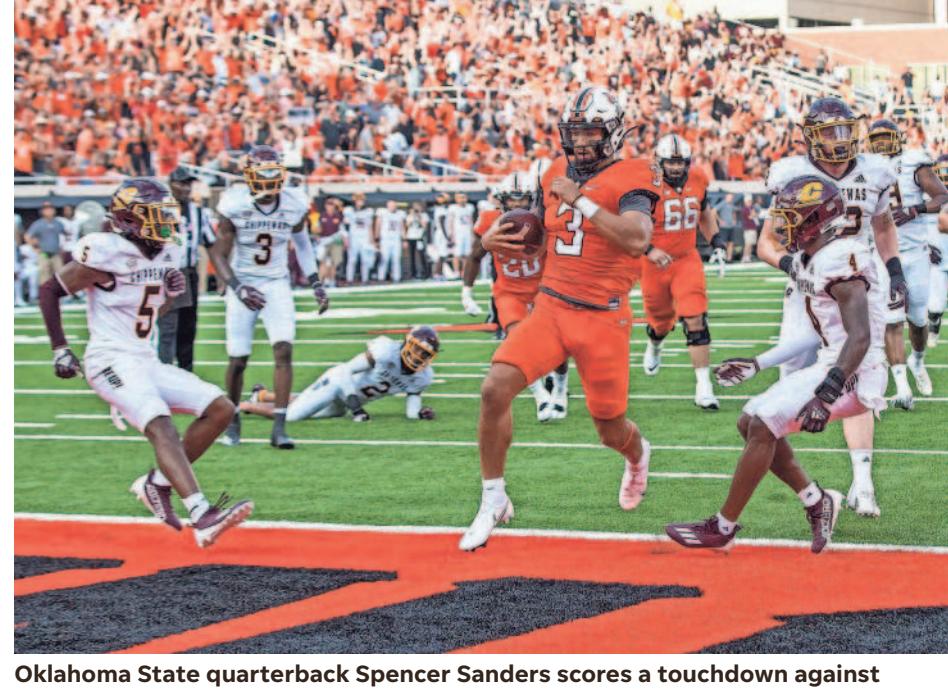
Sanders passed for a career-high 406 yards and matched a career high with four touchdown passes in a 58-44 win over the Chippewas. He also rushed for 57 yards and a career-best two touchdowns. He's the nation's leader in total offense heading into No. 11 Oklahoma State's game against Arizona State on Saturday night.

Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said his team's offensive system lets his senior signal caller take advantage of his experience.

"It allows Spencer to freelance a lot and make decisions on his own, do what he wants to do in our style of offense," Gundy said. "He has a really good feel for our offense and a pretty good idea of what we're trying to accomplish. That allows him to make plays and use his ability."

He will try to put another stellar performance together when the 11th-ranked Cowboys (1-0) host Arizona State (1-0), but he'll face a confident defense. Arizona State allowed just 120 yards in a 40-3 win over Northern Arizona last week. The Sun Devils allowed just 97 yards passing and 23 yards rushing. Linebacker Merlin Robertson led the way with 11 tackles.

"I think it's gonna be big," Arizona State defensive coordinator Donnie



Oklahoma State quarterback Spencer Sanders scores a touchdown against Central Michigan on Sept. 1. BRETT ROJO/USA TODAY SPORTS

Henderson said. "I mean, we're going on the road to play a great opponent and we'd like to show well, obviously compete, be physical, keep the ball in front, try to contain the quarterback, play our style of defense so to speak."

Productive back

Arizona State features running back Kazavian Valladay. The transfer from Wyoming is the FBS' active career rushing leader with 3,397 yards. He rushed

for 116 yards and two touchdowns in the win over Northern Arizona.

Need to finish

Oklahoma State will have a tough task trying to corral Arizona State quarterback Emory Jones.

The transfer from Florida rushed for 758 yards last season and might have the mobility to avoid Collin Oliver, Brock Martin and the rest of Oklahoma State's talented pass rushers.

"They really helped themselves with the quarterback they brought in from Florida," Gundy said. "He's athletic, he can run and make plays with his legs and throws the deep ball well, so it'll be a good challenge for us."

Style points

Oklahoma State seemed sluggish in the second half against Central Michigan and got outscored 29-14.

Defensive tackle Brandon Evers said Central Michigan isn't getting enough credit for the performance and it's being looked at as simply a failure by Oklahoma State. He said quarterback Daniel Richardson and running back Lew Nichols III are top-notch players.

"They're a team who, in my opinion, is probably going to win their conference and compete in a bowl game this year," Evers said.

Terry Miller

Before Oklahoma State running backs Barry Sanders and Thurman Thomas became famous, there was Terry Miller.

Miller, who was elected earlier this year to the College Football Hall of Fame, will be honored for that selection on the field on Saturday and will accept a plaque that will stay on permanent display at the school.

Miller finished fourth in the Heisman balloting in 1976 and second in 1977. He is the only rusher in Oklahoma State history with three 1,000-yard seasons.

AUTO RACING

NASCAR

North Wilkesboro to host '23 All-Star race

Gary D. Robertson

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH, N.C. — NASCAR is returning to one of its original venues that it left more than a quarter-century ago — North Wilkesboro Speedway.

Gov. Roy Cooper and North Carolina native Dale Earnhardt Jr. joined the stock car body and the track's owner on Thursday to announce that the track will host the NASCAR Cup Series All-Star race next year — NASCAR's 75th anniversary season.

"It'll be something that people want to come from all over the country and enjoy — NASCAR All-Star week at North Wilkesboro Speedway — to enjoy the culture, the festivities, the history," Marcus Smith, CEO of Speedway Motorsports, which owns the track, said at a news conference outside the North Carolina Museum of History in Raleigh. "We're excited to revive it."

The .625-mile (1-kilometer) asphalt oval, located almost 70 miles (113 kilometers) northwest of Charlotte, hosted the year-ending race in 1949 for what became the Cup Series. It became an annual stop on the schedule, hosting two races a year starting in 1951, and was a throwback to the days when moonshine runners in the region — NASCAR legend Junior Johnson among them — drove fast cars to escape authorities.

North Wilkesboro hosted more than 90 Cup races before it closed in 1996, a result of NASCAR's dramatic growth during that time and arguments that it wasn't large or fancy enough as the sport tapped into new markets. The track's races went to New Hampshire and Texas.

The oval went into disrepair, and non-NASCAR racing at the legendary track in the early 2010s fizzled. But former drivers like Earnhardt Jr., local boosters, and state officials wouldn't give up on the venue, which has a direct connection to NASCAR's birth.

But a recent effort to renovate the speedway had taken off, buoyed by \$18 million in federal American Rescue Plan funds earmarked by the North Carolina state legislature last year for infrastructure improvements.

The legislature has agreed in principle to provide another \$4 million next year for additional improvements to



North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper speaks during a news conference announcing that the NASCAR All-Star Race will be held at North Wilkesboro Speedway in May 2023. Looking on, seated at center are Dale Earnhardt Jr. and NASCAR Chief Operating Officer Steve O'Donnell. ETHAN HYMAN/THE NEWS & OBSERVER VIA AP

host the race next May 21 and for "future events over the next several years," said Greg Walter, general manager at Charlotte Motor Speedway, Speedway Motorsports' flagship venue.

The All-Star race originally began in 1985 as The Winston and was usually held in May the week before the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway. It's been held the past two years at Texas Motor Speedway, most recently won by Ryan Blaney.

While the North Wilkesboro decision was months in the making, Smith and NASCAR Chief Operating Officer Steve O'Donnell said the concept was confirmed just in recent weeks. That's when standing-room-only crowds attended a "Racetrack Revival" series at the reopened track, spearheaded by Speedway Motorsports, Earnhardt Jr.,

and the widow of the late Benny Parsons. Ryan Newman won the first race, while Earnhardt Jr. was third in a race last week.

"I felt something at a race track that I hadn't felt in a long, long time. And it was the true joy and the love that you just have for being there, whether you're a competitor or a fan," said Earnhardt, a television analyst and NASCAR team owner. "It's just got a special place in our history. And I'm so excited to see what can happen beyond this."

O'Donnell said later it was too early to tell whether a successful All-Star race could lead to annual race dates at the track, but "we wouldn't be going back to North Wilkesboro if we didn't think it would be successful and a place that we want to look to more than one year."

O'Donnell acknowledged holding

more races outside NASCAR's strongholds in recent years to grow the sport has led to weighing choices. The 2023 season also will feature a new NASCAR street race in Chicago.

"As we've looked at evolving the schedule in the future, it's certainly a nod to maybe new markets that we want to be in, but also balancing that with markets where people have been supporting us forever," O'Donnell said. "You look at our 75th anniversary and the schedule that we're putting together and it's a perfect balance."

Richard Petty won a record 15 NASCAR races at North Wilkesboro, which is known for its downhill slope on the front stretch and uphill backstretch. Darrell Waltrip won 10 races, followed by Dale Earnhardt Sr. and Cale Yarborough with five each.

INDYCAR

New twist to Power vs. Dixon

Marshall Pruett

RACER magazine | USA TODAY NETWORK

The fight for the 2014 IndyCar Series championship was largely a duel between Team Penske teammates Will Power and Helio Castroneves, with the two trading the lead over the final rounds before Power took command with three races to go and beat the Brazilian by 62 points to the title.

Before Power's first championship, he spent years chasing and falling short of beating Chip Ganassi Racing's Dario Franchitti from 2009-11, and after the Scot's retirement, Power was never particularly close to overcoming CGR's Scott Dixon's ensuing title years in 2013, 2015, 2018 and 2020.

All that history has registered with Power, who leads the NTT IndyCar Series championship leading into Sunday's title-deciding race. At 42, Dixon — the six-time champion who was born in Power's native Australia and raised in New Zealand — has been the standard of excellence since Power arrived from the Champ Car series in 2008.

At 41, Power feels like he's been chasing Dixon the entire time he's been here, and for once, since Dixon wasn't particularly close in that 2014 title scrap, he's thankful to have a proper fight for the championship with teammate Josef Newgarden and Dixon tied for second, 20 points arrears.

"I think it's great that Scott and I are right at the front," Power told RACER. "It's showing that age really doesn't matter. I'm so excited to fight Dixon in the championship because it's never happened. I've always wanted to go up against him, and I'm actually really happy that I get to battle him. For real. I've always wanted that."

For his part, Dixon tilted his head, scrunched his brow, and admitted he wasn't exactly sure what Power was referring to.

"That's really cool that he feels that

way, but man, I don't know," he said. "I always feel like I'm fighting with him for championships, so I guess this one never really jumped out to me as any different."

"But yeah, I guess from his perspective, since he's been leading the championship, maybe it is different, but for me, I always see it as every year, with a couple of exceptions, it's been a shoot-out with him and possibly one of his other teammates. So I don't I don't see it any different."

There's no shortage of admiration between the titans representing Penske and CGR.

"Scott, I have tremendous amount of respect for him," Power said. "We've obviously raced together for a very long time. And obviously, he's an absolute legend of this era of IndyCar racing. I've had a fantastic year and I've got a great group around me this year. It's going to be an epic battle between not just us, but all the drivers trying to win this championship."

"Will's done a really good job this year," Dixon added. "I think in keeping a calm head, and obviously everybody goes through their ups and downs, but even some of the races where he was coming from behind with an issue in qualifying and starting back in the field, he's been so good, so consistent. Honestly for me, it's been fun to watch."

Of the five remaining championship rivals, three are from Down Under. Power hopes this unique IndyCar title showdown will resonate back home.

"A great thing about Scott McLaughlin coming over is he has a huge following down there in Australia and obviously in New Zealand," he said. "But like my dad said, IndyCar, as far down in Australia, it's a great hidden secret. It's such a good series. To anyone who watches it, this is the best racing. I do hope a lot are watching us to see how it ends up."

FORMULA ONE

Hamilton wants to stay at Mercedes 'until the day I die'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONZA, Italy — Lewis Hamilton insists he has no plans to retire from Formula One after this disappointing season, and the seven-time world champion added he wants to stay at Mercedes "until the day I die."

Hamilton is winless through 15 races this season and sixth in the standings. He trails reigning world champion Max Verstappen, who beat Hamilton for last year's title in a controversial season-ending race, by 152 points heading into the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday.

The poor rollout of Mercedes' draggy 2022 car has Hamilton in danger of the first winless season of his 16-year career.

There's been speculation Daniel Ricciardo could move to Mercedes as a reserve driver next season, then take over for Hamilton when the Briton's contract expires at the end of 2023.

The 37-year-old Hamilton is in his 10th season with Mercedes. He moved there after six seasons with McLaren.

"I love that we have the long partnership we have. I feel like we are embarking on a lot of really positive things, not only in the sport but outside," Hamilton said. "And I think there's a lot of work to accomplish together."

"So I want to be a part of that, I think I'll always be with Mercedes, until the day I die. And I feel like I can race for quite a bit longer so I'll be potentially steering towards that."

Ferrari has new look but same problems

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONZA, Italy — It might be a new look for Ferrari at the Italian Grand Prix but some things remain very much the same as the famous Scuderia heads into its home race plagued by problems.

A strange season full of botched strategy decisions and bizarre incidents continued last week at the Dutch Grand Prix as Carlos Sainz Jr. had to endure a lengthy stop and later picked up an unsafe release penalty.

Ferrari teammate Charles Leclerc has fallen 109 points behind defending champion Max Verstappen with seven races remaining. He led the championship as recently as May.

"Mattia Binotto keeps saying, 'no, no, we don't need to make any changes and everything is going well', but when is that day going to come?" 2016 world

champion Nico Rosberg said on Sky Sports recently, referring to the Ferrari team principal.

"Even Formula Two or Formula Three teams do a better job with their strategy and pit stops than Ferrari do."

The pressure is again on Ferrari heading to its home track and there was speculation that further blunders in front of the passionate red-clad fans could signal the end for Binotto.

The fans will pack out Monza but in contrast to the sea of red, the Ferrari drivers will wear yellow racing suits and there will be a special one-off livery, with touches of yellow on the car, to mark the 100th anniversary of the circuit and the 75th one of the team.

Ferrari has only won one of the past 11 editions of the Italian Grand Prix, with Leclerc emerging victorious at Monza in 2019.

SCOREBOARD



Odds available as of print deadline

MLB					
Favorite		Spread O/U		ML	Underdog
Giants	-	0	-160	CUBS	
Cardinals	1.5	8.5	-205	PIRATES	
ORIOLES	1.5	8.5	-135	Red Sox	
Blue Jays	1.5	7.5	-160	RANGERS	
ASTROS	1.5	8.5	-230	Angels	
TWINS	1.5	7.5	-115	Guardians	
BREWERS	1.5	8.5	-150	Reds	
ROYALS	1.5	8.5	-135	Tigers	
ROCKIES	1.5	10.5	-115	Diamondbacks	
MARINERS	1.5	7.5	-108	Braves	
White Sox	1.5	7.5	-155	ATHLETICS	
Dodgers	1.5	8.5	-160	PADRES	

NCAAF					
Favorite		Spread O/U		ML	Underdog
UCF	5.5	61.5	-220	Louisville	
Boise St	17.5	43.5	-1000	NMEXICO	

Saturday					
Favorite		Spread O/U		ML	Underdog
MIAMI (FL)	26.5	51.5	-	So Miss	
Ohio St	44.5	68.5	-	ARK ST	
NCarolina	7.5	64.5	-	GEORGIA ST	
ARKANSAS	8.5	52.5	-	Scarolina	
K STATE	7.5	56.5	-	Missouri	
utsa	2.5	53.5	-	ARMY	
N WESTERN	10.5	56.5	-	Duke	
PENN ST	25.5	54.5	-	Ohio	
Wake Forest	12.5	65.5	-	VANDERBILT	
Alabama	20.5	65.5	-	TEXAS	
CMICHIGAN	4.5	58.5	-	Alabama	
NOTRE DAME	20.5	49.5	-	BALL STATE	
WISCONSIN	17.5	49.5	-	Marshall	
TEX A&M	19.5	53.5	-	Wash St	
Tennessee	5.5	64.5	-	App St	
AIR FORCE	17.5	49.5	-	PIITSBURGH	
Memphis	5.5	49.5	-	Colorado	
Maryland	27.5	65.5	-	NAVY	
COL ST	11.5	59.5	-	CHARLOTTE	
TX TECH	3.5	62.5	-	Middle Tenn	
ILLINOIS	4.5	57.5	-	Houston	
CAL	12.5	47.5	-	Virginia	
IOWA	3.5	40.5	-	unlv	
MICH ST	34.5	55.5	-	Iowa State	
ECAROLINA	12.5	50.5	-	Akron	
WIRGINIA	12.5	59.5	-	Old Dominion	
TEXAS ST	13.5	64.5	-	Kansas	
OKLAHOMA	34.5	72.5	-	LIBERTY	
ULLAF	11.5	56.5	-	fiu	
Syracuse	22.5	49.5	-	umass	
TULSA	6.5	62.5	-	Kent State	
OK ST	11.5	57.5	-	Michigan	
usc	8.5	66.5	-	STANFORD	
AUBURN	22.5	48.5	-	NEBRASKA	
NEBRASKA	51.5	67.5	-	San Jose St	
Michigan	51.5	67.5	-	HAWAII	
VA TECH	2.5	45.5	-	Toronto	
UTEP	16.5	46.5	-	YANKEES	
BYU	3.5	52.5	-	Minnesota	
FRESNO ST	0.5	60.5	-	1, 2 game	
Miss St	10.5	57.5	-	Kansas City	

NFL					
Favorite		Spread O/U		ML	Underdog
DOLPHINS	3.5	45.5	-175	Patriots	
Eagles	3.5	48.5	-200	LIONS	
49ers	6.5	40.5	-320	BEARS	
COMMANDERS	2.5	43.5	-135	Jaguars	
PANTHERS	0.5	41.5	-110	Browns	
Colts	7.5	45.5	-340	TEXANS	
BENGALS	6.5	44.5	-280	Steelers	
Saints	4.5	43.5	-230	FALCONS	
Ravens	7.5	44.5	-340	JETS	
CHARGERS	3.5	52.5	-175	Raiders	
VIKINGS	1.5	46.5	-101	Packers	
Chiefs	5.5	53.5	-240	CARDINS	
TITANS	5.5	43.5	-240	Giants	
Buccaneers	2.5	50.5	-135	COWBOYS	

Monday					
Favorite		Spread O/U		ML	Underdog
Broncos	6.5	44.5	-270	SEAHAWKS	
Odds are subject to change. Tipico Sportsbook does not offer lines for New Jersey-based college sports teams. Gannett may earn revenue from audience referrals to betting services. Newsrooms are independent of any such relationships and there is no influence on news coverage. Terms and conditions apply, see site for details. 21+ only. Gambling Problem? Call: 1-800-GAMBLER (NJ, PA, IL, VA), 1-800-522-4700 (CO, NV, KS), 1-800-BETS-OFF (IA), 1-800-9-WITH-IT (IN), 1-800-589-9966 (OH), 1-877-770-7867 (LA), 1-888-238-7633 (MO), 1-888-777-9966 (MS). Call or text: 1-800-889-9789 (TN).					

Saturday					
Favorite		Spread O/U		ML	Underdog
Broncos	0	0	0.000	0	0
Odds are subject to change. Tipico Sportsbook does not offer lines for New Jersey-based college sports teams. Gannett may earn revenue from audience referrals to betting services. Newsrooms are independent of any such relationships and there is no influence on news coverage. Terms and conditions apply, see site for details. 21+ only. Gambling Problem? Call: 1-800-GAMBLER (NJ, PA, IL, VA), 1-800-522-4700 (CO, NV, KS), 1-800-BETS-OFF (IA), 1-800-9-WITH-IT (IN), 1-800-589-9966 (OH), 1-877-770-7867 (LA), 1-888-238-7633 (MO), 1-888-777-9966 (MS). Call or text: 1-800-889-9789 (TN).					

Sunday					
Favorite		Spread O/U		ML	Underdog
Dolphins	0	0	0.000	0	0
Odds are subject to change. Tipico Sportsbook does not offer lines for New Jersey-based college sports teams. Gannett may earn revenue from audience referrals to betting services. Newsrooms are independent of any such relationships and there is no influence on news coverage. Terms and conditions apply, see site for details. 21+ only. Gambling Problem? Call: 1-800-GAMBLER (NJ, PA, IL, VA), 1-800-522-4700 (CO, NV, KS), 1-800-BETS-OFF (IA), 1-800-9-WITH-IT (IN), 1-800-589-9966 (OH), 1-877-770-7867 (LA), 1-888-238-7633 (MO), 1-888-777-9966 (MS). Call or text: 1-800-889-9789 (TN).					

Monday					
Favorite		Spread O/U		ML	Underdog
Broncos	6.5	44.5	-270	SEAHAWKS	
Odds are subject to change. Tipico Sportsbook does not offer lines for New Jersey-based college sports teams. Gannett may earn revenue from audience referrals to betting services. Newsrooms are independent of any such relationships and there is no influence on news coverage. Terms and conditions apply, see site for details. 21+ only. Gambling Problem? Call: 1-800-GAMBLER (NJ, PA, IL, VA), 1-800-522-4700 (CO, NV, KS), 1-800-BETS-OFF (IA), 1-800-9-WITH-IT (IN), 1-800-589-9966 (OH), 1-877-770-7867 (LA), 1-888-238-7633 (MO), 1-888-777-9966 (MS). Call or text: 1-800-889-9789 (TN).					

Tuesday					
Favorite		Spread O/U		ML	Underdog

<tbl_r cells="4" ix="2" maxc